Highpointers Club to scale Mt. Agrihan anew. » PAGE 3

Cape Air down again yesterday. » PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Officials admit to OGA violations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), and House vice speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) have admitted to violating the Open Government Act in the passage of Public Laws 18-38 and 18-43, also known as the Saipan casino law.

» Wiseman dismisses Hunter's OGA lawsuit over enactment of the Saipan casino law

The admission was made as part of a settlement agreement between the officials and private citizen Glen Hunter, who sued them and the CNMI government for not complying with the notice provisions of the OGA

See OFFICIALS on Page 4

Former judge Hefner battling cancer, needs prayers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Hefner

Former Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert A. Hefner is battling cancer in Orchard Port, Washington, and needs prayers for his recovery, according to retired CNMI Chief Justice Jose S. Dela Cruz yesterday.

Dela Cruz said he had just communicated with Hefner's daughter, Coral, who informed him that her father is still in the hospital and might be released to hospice care.

Dela Cruz said Coral would like to inform their friends and acquaintances in the CNMI about her father's health condition because he had a long-term presence in the Commonwealth.

"I urge the people of the Commonwealth to remember

See HEFNER on Page 4

Military sheds more details of divert plan

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

The U.S. military's top brass in the Pacific outlined details of the proposed Pacific Air Forces Divert Initiative, which involves the construction of several military facilities on Saipan and Tinian.

RELATED NEWS
- Tinian/Pagan DEIS takes shapes, hearing dates proposed. PAGE 2

At a news briefing on Capital Hill, Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Admiral Bette Bolivar, Pacific Air Forces Brig. Gen. Steven Basham, and Marine Corps Forces Pacific executive director Craig Whelden joined Gov. Eloy S. Inos in presenting the detailed plans.

Bolivar said she has kept Inos informed of the divert plan though "periodic phone calls," to get the governor up to speed. The military top brass earlier held meetings with Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres about the plan.

Whelden said some of the plan's details

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Joint Region Marianas Commander Rear Admiral Bette Bolivar is flanked by Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, and Pacific Air Forces Brig. Gen. Steven Basham, right, at a news briefing on Capital Hill yesterday.
JOEL D. PINAROC

IGIA plenary focuses on climate change, manpower concerns

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

The Obama administration pledged more support to insular areas through increase funding and more focus on climate change and manpower concerns.

Speaking before attendees at the second Interagency Group on Insular Areas' plenary session in Washington, D.C., Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell said the Obama administration "will continue to listen" to the concerns of the insular areas. Jewell co-hosted the meeting with White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

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Local

Tinian/Pagan DEIS takes shapes, hearing dates proposed

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The CNMI people will soon have a chance to have their voices heard on plans the U.S. military has for the islands of Tinian and Pagan.

Yesterday, the Marines Forces Pacific proposed to Gov. Eloy S. Inos the dates of April 29, 30, and May 1 as public hearing dates for the draft environmental impact statement due April 3, for combined live-fire and artillery training on these islands.

» Pagan impact area confined away from flora, fauna; groundwater studies ongoing

Marines will "crawl, walk, and run" for a proposed 16 to 20 weeks of training in the CNMI—but some worry of growing capacity in the coming years that will leave the Tinian range open for an entire year, once potential training facilities have been built and put in place, with live-fire training for 46 weeks a year, for example.

However, this bridge has not been crossed yet, and might not ever. Larger scale training would require additional impacts studies and scrutiny down the line.

For their part, MARFORPAC executive director Craig Whelden said their goals in talks with the CNMI have been to hear concerns and "minimize and/or eliminate" adverse risk to the CNMI's interests.

The military's ad-hoc discussions with the CNMI ahead of the DEIS release were not required by federal law. Whelden called these discussions "unprecedented," in an interview yesterday.

He said in their scoping report they looked at 16-20 weeks of training "with potential to grow beyond that to 40-plus weeks per year."

"Our frame of reference right now for the impact to CNMI and Tinian is 16-20 weeks. We would expect to do that for a number of years before we see if we need more. And if we do need more, we'd have to do another supplemental EIS because the impact would be greater, positive or negative—but we'll have to cross that bridge when we get to it. For now, it's 16 to 20 weeks."

Ad-hoc discussions with municipal and regulatory agencies appear to have shaped the DEIS the CNMI will soon review for comment in April. MARFORPAC has addressed impact to flora and fauna on Pagan, Tinian cattle grazing on military leased lands, and Tinian civilian and military solid waste management, among others.

Ongoing Tinian groundwater studies for wastewater and water use by the military were also confirmed yesterday.

"I have heard some things from people that we're going to treat Pagan like [Farallon de Medinilla]. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are very good stewards of the environment. …We would limit the live-fire activity to the northern part of the island where the volcanic activity is, and preserve the fauna and flora of southern portion [of the island]," Whelden said.

Pagan would train a larger group of Marines than Tinian, according to Whelden. Weapons from rifles, to pistols, to mortars, to artillery, to air-delivered munitions coming to the island from ships will be discussed in a greater degree with some analysis in the DEIS, he said.

MARFORPAC is also looking at beach mobility for Tinian and Pagan. Swimmers, rubber boats, larger boats, among others, will be discussed, he said.

"You will find there are some proposals in there that evaluate several beach opportunities [on] Tinian and why we selected those beaches," Whelden said. He could not name the beaches because the DEIS has not been approved yet.

On water studies, he said a Tinian aquifer study was done recently and was provided to the appropriate agencies in the CNMI and the Tinian mayor. The studies are still ongoing.

"We are still looking at the alternatives for ensuring that we have no impact to water or wastewater capabilities that currently exists, but add the necessary water and wastewater requirements to accommodate military presence," Whelden said.

Asked if these facilities would be connected to the CNMI waterline, he said, "That could be one option, or it may be independent of that."

He confirmed that this aquifer study studied leftover wells from the World War II. "There was a rehabilitation of some of those wells in the 1990s…those wells were all evaluated," he said.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality had monitored the inspection of three of these rehabilitated wells south of the Westfield airport.

The military had contracted a company in Guam. Inspection was done two weeks ago, where samples were taken from these wells. The bureau had requested that the sample results be shared but none had been as of yesterday afternoon, it was gathered.

Wildfire burns 20 acres of vegetation in Wireless Ridge

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A wildfire burned about 15 to 20 acres of vegetation in Wireless Ridge on Capital Hill last Tuesday afternoon.

No one was reported injured or sought medical assistance related to the fire, according to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesperson Jocelyn Alvarez yesterday.

Alvarez said the cause of fire remains unknown at this time.

The department received a call about a wildfire on Capital Hill on Tuesday at 1:30pm, prompting firefighters to respond to the area.

Alvarez said a primary survey of the fire showed heavy smoke and active flames in the grassy area between Talafofo and Wireless Ridge.

She said initial assessment indicated no access routes to the fire and no immediate threat to life and property.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A wildfire burned about 15 to 20 acres of vegetation in Wireless Ridge on Capital Hill last Tuesday afternoon.

Firefighters monitored the directional travel of the smoke and fire and once they gained access, fire personnel were able to suppress the blaze.

Alvarez said the fire was cleared at 11:28pm on Tuesday. Burned were mostly vegetation and natural materials.

Last Feb. 1, a large bush fire swept through some 10 to 15 acres of vegetation on a hill in Kannat Tabla, forcing at least five families to evacuate their homes.

Plea deals found too lenient for two ex-convicts

Finding them too lenient, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho rejected yesterday separate proposed plea deals for two ex-convicts who seriously injured a drinking partner they allegedly kidnapped and beat up on Saipan.

The proposed plea agreement recommended a sentence of 15 years in prison for Joy Fred for kidnapping, and three years and 10 months in prison for violating the terms and conditions of his probation in a previous criminal case.

A separate proposed plea deal recommended a sentence of 12 years in prison against Titomir Kapileo Bhuiyan for kidnapping.

The proposed plea deals also require the two to pay restitution to the victim, Willie Lee Brundidge Jr., places them on 10 years of probation after completing their prison terms, plus other conditions.

"The people of the CNMI deserve to have a safe community. There can be no justice without the appropriate punishment," Camacho said.

He said the prison sentences under the proposed plea deals fail to conform to court and community standards.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government. Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer and attorney Dan Guidotti served as counsels for Fred and Bhuiyan, respectively.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged the 23-year-old Fred with kidnapping, conspiracy, aggravated assault and battery, theft of vehicle, and disturbing the peace.

The OAG charged the 21-year-old Bhuiyan with kidnapping, assault and battery, theft of vehicle, and disturbing the peace.

Police said Brundidge sustained a bone fracture in the right eye and needed to be seen by another doctor. His right eye was swollen.

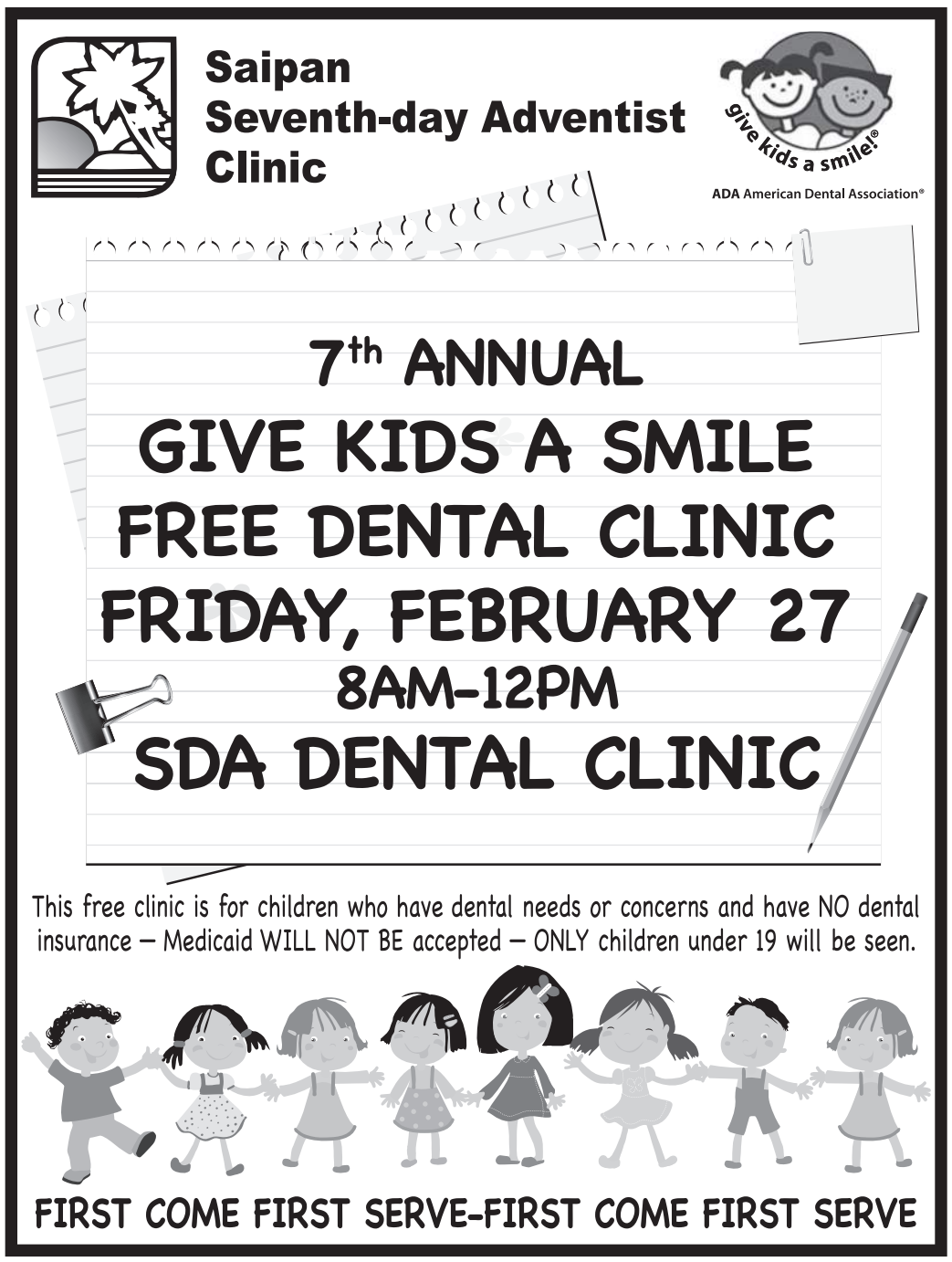
If convicted of all charges, Fred is facing possible consecutive two life sentences plus 11 years and six months in prison, Camacho said. He noted that Fred has a prior conviction for attempted robbery and disturbing the peace in two cases.

Bhuiyan, if convicted of all charges, faces a possible maximum sentence of life sentence plus two years and six months in prison. Camacho noted that Bhuiyan also has a prior conviction.

The judge said the plea agreements are silent and do not restrict parole, probation, and other early release provisions. If the court were to accept the plea agreements, Fred and Bhuiyan would be eligible for work release or weekend furlough immediately, Camacho said.

He said Fred and Bhuiyan would also be eligible to be released on parole after serving only five years and four years in prison, respectively.

Fred and Bhuiyan allegedly beat up Brundidge, put him inside a car, and went to another location, where they continued beating and hitting him. The victim managed to escape by shouting to people for help. The incident happened on Nov. 29 to 30, 2014. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***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FIRST COME FIRST SERVE-FIRST COME FIRST SERVE

Highpointers Club to scale Mt. Agrihan anew

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan said a group of mountaineers will be visiting the Commonwealth once again to climb its highest peak, Mt. Agrihan.

Last year, Highpointers Club members John Mitchler and Roger Kaul scaled the 3,166-foot volcano but failed to reach the peak.

Aldan said the two have contacted his office, saying they will return and attempt to climb Mt. Agrihan once again.

The Highpointers Club consists of nearly 3,000 members who are interested in climbing the highest point of each state.

"They are coming back and they are supposed to be back here in June. They have been climbing the highest mountains and Agrihan is the highest peak in Micronesia," Aldan said.

The Northern Islands Mayors Office wants to make the Northern Islands another mountain climbing destination in the Pacific.

Aldan noted that the Highpointers Club's experience in climbing Mt. Agrihan this year could entice other climbing groups to visit the CNMI.

In the past, the Northern Islands have attracted exploration missions, recreation, and scientific research.

"We've been talking to Gordon Marciano of Pacific Development, Inc. and some other local businessmen that have expressed interest and we're still working on it," he said.

Aldan said that transportation to the Northern Islands for the mountaineers depends on what is available.

Aldan also noted that his office is looing at introducing a yacht race that will involve racing to the Northern Islands. He said he will discuss the proposal with Saipan's yacht club.

Torres accuses Muña of lying on board meeting issue

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board chair Joaquin Torres accused CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna yesterday of lying in her explanation why the board has not had any meetings since May last year.

Muna earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that she had communicated with board members, especially with Torres, with regards to the holding of board meetings.

Torres said that Muna's attempt to clarify the issue is another lie.

"[She] needs to stop lying to herself and to the public," he said. "And if she disputes that she is not lying, then she should produce proofs that she did in fact communicate with members of the board and I about board meetings."

Torres

Muna

Muña said that Public Law 16-51 states "the CEO [has the power] to convene from time to time as the CEO determines necessary and appropriate meetings of the board."

Torres said he knows that Muña has the authority to convene the board from time to time but she never balked at him calling for the meetings until her time to be evaluated came up.

"This was the procedure since Oct. 24, 2012. She had never questioned the authority of the board to call a meeting. She questioned the authority of the board for the first time when the agenda for the meeting included her annual evaluation," he said.

Torres said he submitted a "Notice of Special Meeting" on Oct. 28, 2014, to Muna's secretary, with copies to all board members, including Muña, for publication in the *Saipan Tribune*. Torres said that through emails, he noticed that the notice of special meeting could not be published due to CHCC's legal counsel Nancy Gottfried stopping all publications, saying the CHCC CEO is the expenditure authority for notices to be published.

When contacted yesterday to comment on Torres' claims, Muña said, "I don't want to get into an immature battle."

Their last meeting, according to board members, was back in May 2014.

Support for Rabauliman confirmation as Commerce chief snowballs

Lawmakers and supporters pose with Mark O. Rabauliman, center, at a Senate hearing Wednesday on Rabauliman's nomination as Commerce secretary.

JOEL D. PINAROC

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

No less than 17 testimonies from the public and private sectors expressed support for the confirmation of acting Commerce secretary Mark O. Rabauliman.

Rabauliman on Wednesday faced a public hearing by the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation following his appointment to the Commerce posts several months back.

Lawmakers, former coworkers in various private institutions, and colleagues at the Commerce Department gave glimmering testimonies, focusing on the 39-year-old Rabauliman's curriculum vitae and his vast experience.

In his opening statement in front of the committee, Rabauliman promised to focus on programs such as revolving funds, micro loans, and the promotion of proper regulatory processes in the department.

He also promised to focus on the department's Central Statistics Division, noting that it needs to be beefed up owing to the importance of data when it comes to policy-making.

In an interview, he also said one of the top concerns he will tackle is how to revive entrepreneurship in the Commonwealth, adding that achieving a balance between foreign and domestic investments remain a "tough challenge."

Following the Senate public hearing, a session will be held to determine if Rabauliman will indeed be appointed the Commerce Department's top post.

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Cape Air down again yesterday

Cape Air flights to the CNMI were cancelled yesterday, with United Airlines fielding a jet plane to accommodate passengers.

According to flightstats.com, flights scheduled to the Saipan International Airport at 3:35am, 7:30am, and 8:05am were cancelled yesterday.

When asked for details, United Corporate Communications released the following statement:

"In response to the cancellations of all of Cape Air flights on Feb. 25, United has decided to operate extra flights using a Boeing 737-800 aircraft to accommodate the affected passengers in Guam and Saipan. UA2107 is scheduled to depart Guam on Feb. 25 at 8pm and is expected to arrive on Saipan at 8:40pm. UA2108 is scheduled to depart Saipan on Feb. 25 at 9:30pm and is scheduled to arrive on Guam at 10:10pm. We regret any inconvenience experienced by our customers."

Saipan Tribune last reported two days of cancelled flights last month. United did not say if this week's flight cancellations would continue into tomorrow.

A reason for flight cancellation of all Cape Air flights was not given.

Swaths of flights were cancelled during the middle months of last year largely due to technical issues. United flew accommodating flights during this time as well. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

IGIA

From Page 1

Jerry Abramson.

In her opening speech, Jewell said despite cost-cutting concerns in the mainland, the administration will try to increase funding for the insular areas.

She mentioned that the government does recognize that it needs to increase the $30 million a year cap in funding for Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The official also mentioned the issue of climate change, and that the federal government has allocated some $140 million for ecosystem resilience.

On a bigger scale, she said the current administration is also looking at allocating a portion of the planned $500 billion into the transportation budget plan, roads and bridges, not only with the 50 states, but also with territories.

"From forums like the IGIA, to federal assistance and economic development programs, Interior is dedicated to working with our fellow Americans living in American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," said Jewell. "President Obama and his administration are committed to helping island leaders build strong, dynamic and resilient communities, especially as we address the impacts of climate change, which the islands are already experiencing."

Regular reviews and meetings

Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina added that the "IGIA is the largest annual gathering of federal and island officials" in Washington."

"Moving forward, the IGIA will not only be an annual event, but a continuing dialogue among the White House, the Department of the Interior, and other relevant federal agencies on the issues identified prior to and during today's meeting," the official said.

Kia'aina said there will be regular reviews of the progress and developments related to the IGIA.

Kia'aina also announced that a Climate Change Coordinator will be hired in the Office of Insular Affairs by April. She also announced that OIA will be coordinating with Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo to host a two-day stakeholder meeting in Guam, in June, between territorial leaders and federal agencies on climate change resilience and adaptation.

Aside from Guam and the CNMI, representatives from other insular areas and territories including American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands attended the plenary session.

CNMI concerns

For the CNMI, Lt. Ralph DLG. Torres gave a short presentation on workforce development as a critical component given the CNMI's reliance on tourism.

Torres, who attended the plenary on behalf of Gov. Ely S. Inos, particularly expressed concern about the need for increased immigration given that the current workforce in his territory will not be sufficient to replace foreign employees that must leave the CNMI by the end of 2019, under current law.

As an answer, territorial leaders have been invited to participate in working with federal officials regarding the implementation of the Workforce Innovation Opportunities Act, Kia'aina said.

The Assistant Secretary stated that, in concert with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, workforce development in the health profession will be prioritized for the territories.

More than 100 policy-level representatives attended the second IGIA.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C Sablan (Ind-MP), meanwhile, was not able to attend the IGIA. The CNMI's four-term delegate to Congress will undergo back surgery on March 2.

The archived webcast of the IGIA Plenary Session is available at http://new.livestream.com/usinterior/events/3824237.

HEFNER

From Page 1

him and offer prayers so that he could get well," he said.

Hefner served as Superior Court presiding judge from 1989 to 1991. He was chief judge of the Trial Court (now Superior Court) from 1985 to 1989. He served as associate judge of the Trial Court from 1979 to 1985.

Prior to being named trial judge, Hefner served on the Trust Territory High Court.

Dela Cruz, the first chief justice of the CNMI Supreme Court, said he started in the CNMI Judiciary working with Hefner when he (Dela Cruz) was appointed to the Trial Court in 1985.

Dela Cruz said when he was appointed chief justice, Hefner remained as presiding judge of the Superior Court.

Before serving in the CNMI, Hefner served as one of the associate justices on the Trust Territory High Court, which was the court system for all of the Trust Territories, including Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and the Northern Marianas.

"He's a very straight arrow. He follows the law strictly. But he has a sense of humor also," Dela Cruz said.

He said that when the Commonwealth was established, Hefner was appointed as one of the Commonwealth judges, together with Herbert Soll.

Dela Cruz said Hefner's wife, Betty, and their son, Robert Jr., predeceased him.

MILITARY

From Page 1

include military construction such as bulk fuel storage areas, cargo and maintenance bays, a pipeline, and military bunkers on Tinian, among others.

In the proposed divert plan, there will be less structures on Saipan compared to Tinian, where a majority of military activities will be, Whelden said.

There is also currently an authorized $23.9 million to be invested on Saipan for bulk fuel storage, a cargo pad for offloading of military aircraft, and a small 6,000-square-foot maintenance facility.

"We are not looking for a long-term presence at all on Saipan," Whelden said, noting that it will be different on Tinian.

"On Tinian, Marines will add concrete structures, fuel storage, pipeline from the seaport, cargo pad, maintenance facilities, aircraft taxiways, and other facilities that the U.S. Marines may need," he added.

For the Air Force, Basham said the hybrid plan calls for 12 Boeing 707 aircraft (commercial size) and a KC 135 Stratotanker (a midair refueling aircraft) spread over Saipan and Tinian.

He emphasized that should the hybrid plan push through, majority of the activities will be on Tinian, which he said will allow the military "to avoid" disrupting civilian activities.

The military official, however, said he cannot give a "100 percent guarantee" that the divert plan will not affect commercial flights, but stressed that as much as possible, there will be no "disruptions" of commercial flights, particularly on Saipan.

EIS hearings

Whelden, meanwhile, said there are two EIS reports that the military hopes to complete. One is for the divert plan and another for the CNMI Joint Military Training exercises on Tinian.

He said the military is now halfway through the CJMT EIS and is looking at how to "blend" them into one.

An EIS describes the effects of proposed activities on the environment; in this case the effects of military presence in the CNMI. It will be presented for a public hearing before military activities can begin.

According to Whelden, the military is set to submit the EIS to the *Federal Register* on April 3. The military top brass will then go back to the CNMI for public hearings on April 29, April 30, and May 1.

"Probably two [public hearings on Saipan] and one on Tinian," Whelden said, adding that the public will also hear about the hybrid divert plan at these scheduled hearings.

Japan interest

Whelden said Japan is also interested to hold military exercises on Tinian, and that the Japanese government will pay a certain "share" in the construction costs of the proposed military facilities on Tinian. However, he said he cannot disclose any other details.

"Japan has been coming to the CNMI," Whelden said, adding that it is not exactly a surprise that its military will have "interests."

Still noncommittal

As far as Inos is concerned, the hybrid plan presents an alternative for the government to further study.

The governor said he "acknowledges the alternative," and admitted he never thought of such a solution.

However, Inos said these are still "preliminary discussions" and the "strong stand" of the Commonwealth Ports Authority against using a divert airport on Saipan remains.

Carter tours CUC facilities

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter inspected several Commonwealth Utilities Corp. facilities yesterday.

The judge is handling a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lawsuit against CUC. The judge recently selected Gilbane Federal, a California-based full service construction company, to expeditiously complete some stalled CUC projects.

Yesterday, Carter inspected water and wastewater facilities as well CUC power plants.

Around 7:30am, CUC executive director Alan Flectcher and other senior management officials met with Carter and his team that included U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien.

After a meeting, the group drove to Agingan Point to tour the wastewater treatment plant, which is manned by a three-man crew.

Lt. Cdr. Brian Bearden, of the U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, explained the "digestive sludge" of the facility and how the wastewater process worked.

Around 9am, Carter and the group visited the San Vicente water tank. He discussed ongoing water tank projects with CUC management.

According to an itinerary of the visit, Carter was also scheduled to go to the Donnie Spring well, the Sadog Tasi wastewater treatment plant and offices, the Puerto Rico water tank construction site, CUC's power plants 4 and 1, and its chlorine facility. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

HHS awards $1M to Guam DPHSS

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded Guam's Department of Health and Human Services a $1 million grant.

Guam DPHSS was awarded the grant to fund the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. The program will support programs that help families raise their children from birth to 5 years to become physically, socially and emotionally healthy and ready to learn. The funds awarded will help develop home visiting programs to improve child health and prevent child abuse and neglect. The program will also help to encourage positive parenting and promote child development that will prepare children for school. ***(PR)***

OFFICIALS

From Page 1

when the Saipan casino law was enacted.

As part of the deal, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman dismissed Hunter's lawsuit yesterday.

The terms of the settlement agreement require Torres, Deleon Guerrero, and Demapan to pay Hunter's counsel, Jennifer Dockter, $10,000 as payment for all attorney's fees incurred in prosecuting Hunter's claims. The parties agreed that all other fees and costs shall be waived. Hunter incurred attorney's fees in excess of $20,000.

Torres, Deleon Guerrero, and Demapan will pay the $10,000 by check to the Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, where Dockter works, on or before yesterday.

The settlement agreement didn't specify whether the government or the officials will pay the $10,000 in their personal capacities.

Aside from Hunter, Torres and the two lawmakers, the other signatories in the settlement agreement are their respective counsels—Dockter for Hunter, assistant attorney general David Lochabay for Torres, attorney John Cool for Deleon Guerrero and Demapan, and a representative for Attorney General Edward Manibusan.

Wiseman was supposed to hear Torres' motion for a protective order last Feb. 12, but it did not push through after the parties informed the court they were in the middle of talks to possibly settle the lawsuit.

Hunter sued the government, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, the Lottery Commission, Torres, Deleon Guerrero, Demapan, and Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) for violating the OGA when they enacted the Saipan Casino Act without following the OGA's public notice provisions.

Prior to the settlement agreement, the parties agreed to dismiss the claims against Inos and Ogumoro.

Last October, Wiseman issued a decision that dismissed the Lottery Commission as a party in the lawsuit.

In an interview shortly after notifying the court about the possible settlement last Feb. 12, Dockter stated that the defendants raised the idea of settlement and that, as always, she and Hunter are open to settlement.

"Our entire purpose has been to force transparency and if we can talk settlement, that's always an idea. We never want to the litigate this," Dockter said.

"There is nothing that we would ever agree to keep secret. The entire purpose of this is transparency and openness. The settlement would be the same thing," Dockter said.

She said the lawsuit was never been about trying to sue people, or a political party, or a political favor, or the casino.

"Contrary to what I think some people believe, it's not about casino. It's always been about transparency," she pointed out.

Savares says Saipan farmers should work together

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

With issues lingering between the Farmer's Cooperative and the Sabalu Farmers Market, Association of Northern Mariana Island's Mayors, Vice Mayors, and Elected Municipal Council Members president Melissa B. Savares has this one piece of advise for them: Settle your differences and work together.

The conflict between farmers from the Farmers Cooperative and Sabalu Market has been brewing for quite awhile. Yet without the cooperation of farmers on Saipan, nothing can be resolved and providing necessary products through competition could engender deeper conflicts for the farmers.

Savares said the same thing also happens in Guam. She said Guam farmers recently took each other to court because they have two separate groups: the Farmers Co-op and the Chamorro Village farmers.

"They weren't seeing eye to eye, so they had two presidents where they had two elections at the same day. Because we're in the process of building a facility, I didn't want to get involved with their squabble," Savares said.

She said they had Guam's Department of Agriculture work it out with the farmers.

"DoA and the leadership should work with the two leaderships of the farmers here on Saipan because they all have the same goal and that is to produce crops so our people can eat healthier and have local produce," Savares said.

"So put your differences aside and look at what your goals are and don't compete against each other because competing against each other is what any business would do, but you have to look at what are the needs of the people, what are the needs to eat healthier, so they can be healthier."

As of now, the Sabalu Market and Farmers Co-op are in negotiations to restore the Tuesday Market at the Garapan Fishing Base. However, that would eventually defeat the purpose of the Garapan Public Market.

Savares said that having the Farmers Co-op would allow farmers to supply their produce in just one place instead of going out and doing the selling themselves.

"Farmers can go to the market and place their produce and then go back and maintain their farm, not needing to go out there and selling it on the streets. That way they will have more produce available. So collaborative efforts need to be addressed between farmers," she said.

Savares said Saipan farmers should "work together to benefit the community and build a healthier community."

Preparations underway for 13th Marianas March Against Cancer

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is now in the midst of preparations for its signature fundraising event, the 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer, which is set from May 1 to 2 at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao.

Christopher A. Concepcion, vice chairman of the MMAC public relations committee, said the CNMI's largest annual fundraiser will have teams competing in four categories: Pulan (families), Napu (schools), Puti'un (businesses) and Atdao (non-profit/government agencies).

MMAC is inviting families, businesses, schools, non-profit organizations, and government agencies to participate as teams.

Diana I. Benavente, 2015 MMAC overall committee chair, said two categories such as a school and a business, a school and a non-profit organization, a business and a non-profit organization, and so forth can team up.

Registration fee will be determined by category or combination of categories each team falls under. Competitions include best tent, best baton, most money raised in each category, most luminaries sold, most spirit, and most laps.

"The MMAC is also a time for the community to pay their respects to all those who have been directly affected by cancer. All cancer survivors and those currently undergoing cancer treatment are invited to the annual survivor dinner held in their honor," Benavente said.

Each survivor will be treated to a complimentary dinner buffet and will be awarded a unique medallion and T-shirt commemorating their fight against cancer.

"This is a very important part of the MMAC. Every one of us knows someone who has been affected by cancer and the survivor ceremony is our chance to celebrate their perseverance and strength," she said.

Luminaries will also be lit in honor and in memory of loved ones who have survived cancer, currently undergoing treatment, or have lost the fight against cancer. Candles will be lit inside a white bag with each one bearing the name of someone who has been touched by cancer. Each luminary will be sold for $5 and can be purchased from any team or at the MMAC event.

The next meeting will be held on March 4 at 5:30pm at the CCA conference room on Middle Road, Gualo Rai.

Businesses, individuals, and organizations who also wish to support the 2015 MMAC may donate funds, services, or raffle items. Sponsorship levels include title sponsor (donating $3,000 or more), major sponsor (donating $1,000 to $2,999), or supporting sponsorship (donating $1 to $999).

MMAC is also inviting all musicians, bands, dancers, and other performers to show their support by performing live entertainment at the 2015 MMAC. It is on a first-come, first-served basis.

"We raised a substantial amount last year and we hope to match or exceed that this year. With this being the 13th year of the MMAC, we are confident that the community will come out in full force in support of the battle against cancer," Benavente said.

For more information on the 2015 MMAC, here is a list of contacts:

- For survivors, call committee chair Nora Sablan at 285-5124 or email at norasablan@gmail.com;
- For luminary, call committee chair Jenypy Sambile at 483-4739 or email at jenypysambile@gmail.com;
- For team information, call committee chair Catherine Attao-Toves at 285-1828, Tara White at 483-8272, Bobby Cruz at 287-2792, or Daniel Brown at 287-3276 or email at mmacteams@gmail.com;
- For donations, call committee chair Nola Hix at 989-6652 or email at nola.hix@gmail.com;
- For entertainment, call Benavente at 285-2197 or email at dibenavente@hotmail.com.

Money raised from the Marianas March Against Cancer is used by CCA to promote cancer awareness and prevention, provide patient support services, and serve as the liaison and advocate for cancer issues in the CNMI.

For more information on CCA, visit them at their office or their website at www.cca-marianas.org.

USP4GG names essay contest winners

The U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance recently announced the winners of its international essay contest on overseas Filipinos that was launched by USP-4GG Marianas Chapter (CNMI and Guam) chair Dr. Celia B Lamkin.

The winners are the following:

COLLEGE

- 1st prize: Justin Keith Baquisal, UP Diliman
- 2nd prize: Dia Marmi Bazar, Misamis University, Misamis Occidental
- 3rd prize: Jeremy Mosquito, St. Mary's University, Bayombong, Nueva Viscaya

HIGH SCHOOL

- 1st prize: Patrick Duane Noche, Calayan Educational Foundation, Inc., Lucena City
- 1st prize: Eugenie Marie Pranada, Philippine School of Bahrain, Bahrain
- 2nd prize: Hazel Ivy Jeremias, The Lewis College, Cogon, Sorsogon
- 3rd prize: Yvonne Dayne Luis, Durat AL Sharq International School, Jeddah, KSA.

(USP4GG)

The Rota Marianas Lions Club was chartered last Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015, at the Rota Round House, with 27 new members sworn in.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota Marianas Lions Club chartered

The Rota Marianas Lions Club was chartered last Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015, at the Rota Round House, with 27 new members sworn in. The event also featured the induction of new officers for the Lion Year 2015. The Saipan Marianas Lions Club was the sponsoring club.

Lions Club member from Guam joined the event, including acting District Governor Lion Daniel Yang, Immediate Past District Governor Lion Annabelle Dancel, Past District Governor Lion Herbie Perez, PDG Lion Romy Angel, and Region 1 Zone Chair Lion Art Navarro.

Saipan Lions Club members who were also present included Region 2 Chair Lion Ladyvir Canape, Saipan Marianas Lions Club President Lion Nelida Atalig, Treasurer Lion Florenda Miranda, Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club President Lion Nenita Marquez, Treasurer Lion Arceli Legaspi, and Region 2 Secretary Lion Olivia Yana.

"The waiting is over and we are happy that finally the RMLC was chartered and, with the leadership of its Charter President, Lion Julian Calvo, we are confident that Lions Club will be visible on Rota through its project and services to the community," Region 2 PRO Lion Annamae Adaza said.

All members are also being encouraged to attend the District 204 Convention on March 7-8, 2015, at the Pacific Star Hotel in Guam.

As the world's largest service club organization, Lions Club members are always ready to serve and do whatever is needed in their communities. For those who wants to be a Lion members or for any questions about the club, call Region 2 Chair Lion Ladyvir Canape at 989-2545 or Zone 2 Chair Lion Mario Mayuga at 285-1021. ***(PR)***

Registration ongoing for NMC, Framingham master's program

Framingham State University and Northern Marianas College have joined forces to recruit a new cohort of students who will be working toward their master's degree in education with an emphasis in International Education (GRE not required).

The graduate program, which is offered only outside the mainland United States, culminates in a degree conferred by the Framingham State University and presents a unique opportunity for students living and working in the CNMI to advance both academically and professionally.

Many of the graduates of the program are now employed in the CNMI Public School System and Northern Marianas College as instructors, principals, and administrators.

The classes for the program are scheduled in a way that recognizes that many of the students hold full-time jobs and are balancing many obligations. As such, the courses are provided in a condensed but convenient format supported by prior readings, and culminate in a final project. The instructional content of the classes are delivered through both online formats as well an in-class sessions, which are led by Framingham professors who travel to the CNMI to meet personally with the cohort participants.

Since the start of the collaborative effort between the NMC and Framingham State University, over 277 individuals—employed by the CNMI Public School System, Northern Marianas College, private schools and other organizations—have completed the program.

Northern Marianas College offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in Education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services) as well as a bachelor's degree in Business Management. Other degrees offered are: associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. NMC also offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

Individuals interested in joining the next cohort may contact the Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute at 234-5498 Ext. 6808/6802 or email floyd.masga@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

Position: Cook (2)
Position Summary: To prepare and cook food for a small restaurant, control wastage, clean galley and kitchen appliances and work areas, to ensure cleanliness and a functional operation and to be able to prepare and cook food promptly, in presentable and delectable way.

Position Requirement: High school graduate. GED or equivalent plus 3 years work experience as cook in a restaurant or hotel. Preferably with experience in Western, Japanese and Chinese cuisines. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized and self-discipline. Must be able to communicate in English and Chinese language.

Position: Waitress (2)

Position Summary: To take orders and serve food and beverages to patrons on the Gaming floor and restaurant in the Club. Maintain the Club presenting a clean and presentable appearance.

Position Requirement: High school graduate. GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as waitress in a restaurant or hotel. Able to communicate clearly and possess a good command of verbal and written English. Preferably Chinese Speaking. Must have good organizational skills, self-discipline and problem solving skills.

Position: Bartender (2)

Position Summary: Require an energetic, professional staff member who has an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Focused on professionalism and providing a superior customer experience. The ideal candidate must possess in depth knowledge about Wines, Spirits, Cocktails and other drink ingredients.

Position Requirement: College Graduate Degree or equivalent. Able to communicate clearly and possess a good command of verbal and written English. A minimum of 2 years' experience working within a 4* / 5* star establishment as a Bartender.

Position: Electronic Gaming Machine Technician (1)

Position Summary: Responsible for the efficient running of all electronic gaming machines, servers and IT systems. Repair, service and maintain electronic gaming machines in order to minimize down time of machines which results in loss of revenue. Organize the activities of maintenance and technician contractors.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED, technical school plus a minimum of 3 years work experience as a slots or e-gaming machine technician in a casino or equivalent or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training in e-gaming machines repair, service, and maintenance skills can be demonstrated. Able to communicate clearly in and possess a good command of verbal and written English. Knowledge of various types of electronic gaming equipment used on casino floor and demonstrate the skills and ability to diagnose problems, take corrective action necessary, and ensure device is operational as quickly and efficiently as practical.

Position: Guest Service Manager (1)
Position Summary: To ensure that excellence in service is provided to Club's guests through Guest Services and that appropriate complimentary privileges are accorded Junkets and Premium Players and that all their needs and requirements are attended to.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED, technical school plus a minimum of 3 years work experience in a casino or equivalent or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training and at least minimum experience in Supervisory Position. Able to communicate clearly and possess a good command of verbal and written English and Mandarin Chinese. Excellent Public Speaking and communication skills. Computer literacy. Word Processing skills. Effective negotiating skills. Effective Problem solving skills.

Please send detailed resume by email to: hr@clubcsaipan.com. Deadline for submission of completed applications is on March 2, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB15-DOF/P&S-027

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 23, 2015 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"SALE OF GOVERNMENT PERSONAL PROPERTIES"

COPIES OF THE INVITATION TO BID FORM MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

INSPECTION: The government authorized an inspection of the property to determine the true condition of the item(s) to be sold. **Purchaser is cautioned to inspect the item(s) and purchased the item(s) as is, where is.**

/S/ LARISSA C. LARSON
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-15

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) CANCELLATION

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) has canceled the following Invitation for Bids (IFB): **CPA-IFB-003-15, including any amendments**, effective immediately. The IFB will be re-issued at a later date.

The reason for the cancellation is to allow CPA to gather sufficient documentation to be able to accurately determine the amount of trash to be collected and what type of equipment would be most beneficial in handling this trash.

Bidders who have already submitted bids will have their bids returned unopened or they can pick up their bid packages at Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any bid submitted will not be opened and no contract will be awarded under this current IFB.

A new, revised IFB will be issued once CPA has collected the relevant data. All bidders who received a bid set for this IFB will be notified. Additionally, a notice informing the public of the revised IFB will be issued.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

BEST **JOBS.** BEST **BENEFITS.**
BEST **SUNSHINE.**

Best Sunshine International is developing an Integrated Resort, which will include casino, hotels, restaurants, retail, spa, meetings, theater and themed entertainment.

As part of our commitment to the future of Saipan, and to providing the people of the CNMI with the Best Jobs and Best Benefits, Best Sunshine International will be opening a live training center (slots, table games & VIP facilities) in the DFS T Galleria to train and develop our staff in a live gaming environment.

WE ARE SEEKING TALENTED PEOPLE FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS WHERE FULL TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED:

Slot Attendants
Slot Gaming Technical Manager
Slot Operations Manager
Slot Operations Director
Slot Representative
Slot Technician
Slot Club Supervisor
Slot Club/Host Representative

Table Games Dealers
Table Games Dealer
Table Games Supervisor
Table Games Pit Manager
Table Games Shift Manager

Security Officers
Security Officer
Security Supervisor
Security Shift Manager
Surveillance Operator
Surveillance Shift Manager
Surveillance Supervisor

Cashiers
Cage Cashier
Cage Supervisor
Cage Shift Manager

How to Apply:

To find out more about these positions, look on the Labor Department website (www.marianaslabor.net). If you believe you have the skills and attributes to be successful in these positions, please email your resume to bestsunshine@charterhouse.com.hk

Background check may be required before employment.

Thank you, Si Yu'os Ma'ase and Olomwaay for your interest in Best Sunshine International.

BEST**SUNSHINE**
International Limited

‘Choose to reuse’ on Tuesdays with MINA, Joeten

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Every Tuesday will be a little bit greener now. The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, in collaboration with Joeten grocery stores, kicked off their “Taya Plastc Bag Tuesday” event on Tuesday, with local celebrities bagging groceries at Joeten’s four locations.

Customers will say no to plastic bags as Joeten, MINA’s 2013 Green Business of the Year, will not be distributing any every Tuesday, as a part of MINA’s Plastic Bag Challenge.

“Taya” means “nothing” in the indigenous Chamorro language.

According MINA program manager Becky Ada Furey, the campaign’s goal is to completely eliminate the use of plastic bags, which is the most littered item on the island.

Joeten in Susupe passed out over 100 reusable bags at its location on Tuesday. Furey told *Saipan Tribune* that customers can purchase MINA’s reusable bags in green, orange, or blue for 99 cents each.

“I think this is amazing. It is a great way to try to tidy up the island and keep it clean,” said Saipan resident Walter Manglona. “Go green! It would be great to see it every day of the week.”

Customers like Walter will get 10 cents off their store purchase when using MINA’s bags, labeled “I choose to reuse.” Customers can also get a 5-cent discount by using their personal reusable bags at any Joeten grocery store location.

During Tuesday’s event, volunteer celebrities bagged groceries and handed out free reusable eco bags for an hour, in an effort to encourage the community to reduce the use of plastic bags.

“We are not just practicing what we are preaching; we are making it a daily practice,” said volunteer celebrity bagger and *Saipan Tribune*’s 2015 Person of the Year Nola Hix.

Education Specialist program manager Bobby Cruz echoed Hix’s sentiments.

“If we are not good stewards of the resources we have today then we are not thinking about of our future,” he said. “I feel like if I can do one small thing to help educate people to be environmentally responsible and to promote that attitude, I am doing my part.”

House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Delta Air Lines sales account executive Chris Concepcion, and BECQ’s marine biologist Steven Johnson were among the 15 local celebrities who assisted the organization in its campaign launch.

Furey said that community feedback has been positive so far. “Today is just the start,” she added. “MINA has plans to make the Taya Plastic Bag campaign more than once a week.”

“I know it is a challenge to accept change and adapt to it. Right now, we know to gradually phase out plastic bags and convince the islands to say no to plastic bags because they are destroying the environment,” she said.

A portion of the money gained through the purchase of MINA’s eco-friendly bags will go to the organization. To learn more about the Plastic Bag Challenge call MINA at 233-7333 (REEF) or email minaoutreach@gmail.com.

THOMAS MANGLONA II
Education Specialist Program Manager Bobby Cruz hands a customer her groceries in the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance’s eco-friendly bag on Tuesday at Joeten Susupe.

THOMAS MANGLONA II
Delta Air Lines sales account executive Chris Concepcion bags grocery items at Joeten Susupe in support of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance and Joeten’s Taya Plastic Bag Tuesday Campaign.

THOMAS MANGLONA II
Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance program manager Becky Furey, center, poses with local celebrity volunteers at Tuesday’s event.

THOMAS MANGLONA II
Walter Manglona poses for a photo with his reusable bags after purchasing items at Joeten’s Susupe location.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero and Rep. Angel Demapan bag groceries at Joeten Dandan on Tuesday.

THOMAS MANGLONA II
Saipan Tribune’s 2015 Person of the Year Nola Hix poses for a photo with Joeten employees while bagging groceries on Tuesday.

Santos brothers donate sports supplies to ESFDB

SHRM membership meeting today at PIC

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will be holding its February general membership meeting today, Feb. 26, on the topic of "Employer Policies Governing Computer, Cell Phone and Email Use in the Workplace," which will be presented by Timothy H. Bellas of the Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, LLC.

Use of electronic media in one form or another is part of almost every business activity today. Not having an employer policy on the use of electronic media in the workplace can result not only in lost productivity but more severe employee problems. Find out the problems and possible solutions.

This lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Charley's Cabaret today, from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

The presentation includes lunch and the cost is $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Micah Parico-Acuavera by phone at 234-1795 or by e-mail to corpoffice@triplejsaipan.com or by e-mail to Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com.

The Society for Human Resource Management is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. For more information about the NMI Chapter, you can visit our website at http://nmichapter.shrm.org. ***(SHRM)***

The year just keeps getting better for Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, this time with two brothers donating sports supplies to support the school's physical education programs.

Ten-year-old Devin and 9-year-old Dane Santos recently turned over to the school basketballs and footballs. This comes on the heels of a recent donation made by a young girl, Eusebia Ana Hocog Flores, who gave the school dictionaries.

"On behalf of everyone at Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, I want to express our deep gratitude to Devin and Dane Santos for their generous donation," said administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig. "Gifts of this size are not made without a great deal of thought, and we embrace the opportunity and for that we are eternally grateful."

"Their donation allows us to reach out and better meet the needs of our students in the physical education and sports activities," added Atalig.

"Thank you Devin and Dane for your donations. Your donations put a big smile to every student in our school that loves to play," said student body president Tyra Reese A. Calvo.

"Thanks to a generous donation from the Santos brothers, the students could not have been more grateful or more excited to receive the new basketballs and footballs," said board president Edward C. Maratita Jr.

Dane Santos is a third grader and Devin Santos is a fourth grader from CDR William C. McCool Elementary Middle School/Department of Defense Education Activity schools in Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dane and Devin Santos pose with students of Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja after making their donations to the school.

Their proud parents are David and Glenda Hocog Santos of Mangilao, Guam.

The administration, students, faculty and staff, and board of directors would like to express their appreciation to Dane and Devin. Thank you! ***(ESFDB)***

GOOD JOB!

Grace Christian Academy would like to congratulate Minna Ito, sophomore at Grace Christian Academy, for receiving a full scholarship to attend the Junior State of American Summer School Program at Stanford University. This program is provided by the U.S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs and the process for selection of this scholarship is very competitive. We highly commend Minna on this accomplishment.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Introducing...

New Way To Stay in USA

Starting February 18, the U.S. Government is offering a new way to stay in the U.S.A. to aliens who are out-of-status in the C.N.M.I. It's called **"Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals" (DACA)**.

With DACA, you are allowed to...

1. stay in the U.S. for three or more years without fear of deportation,
2. receive a work authorization to work legally in the U.S,
3. attend school or college,
4. travel outside the U.S. with special permission under special emergency circumstances, AND
5. get a social security card, which allows you to open a bank account, apply for a driver's license, and much more!

You may qualify for DACA, if you...

1. entered the U.S. as a child,
2. came before you turned age 16,
3. have lived in the U.S. continuously since January 1, 2010,
4. fell "out-of-status" with immigration before June 15, 2012,
5. AND, you are now a student, high school graduate or military veteran.

To find out if YOU qualify...

Contact the Guam law firm of **Baumann, Kondas and Xu** today!
BKX attorneys are experts in U.S. immigration law. And, they have successfully petitioned for DACA for many young clients under a similar program in Guam.
All inquiries and applications are completely confidential.
Email: Ladd.Baumann@baumannguam.com • Email: Nelson.Xu@baumannguam.com.
Or visit: 238 Archbishop Flores St., Suite 903, DNA Bldg., Hagatna, Guam 96910.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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HOW WE REGULAR FOLKS AREN'T LIKE HOLLYWOOD!!!
I ACTUALLY THINK DOOGIE HOWSER IN TIGHTY WHITIES IS NOT ENTERTAINING!
MY 'GOODIE BAG' ISN'T WORTH $160,000!
NOBODY ASKS ME WHO I'M WEARING!
I DON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT WAGE INJUSTICE WHILE DECKED OUT IN A GOWN WORTH MORE THAN THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT OF FINLAND!
HAPPY MEAL
HITCH
TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

EDITORIAL

Egg lovers, rejoice! Scientists were wrong about cholesterol

Bummer? Yeah, we'll say.

Cholesterol, defamed for more than three decades by nutritional science, subject of countless warnings to egg-craving Americans, has now been exonerated as Public Food Enemy No 1. The nation's top nutrition advisory panel has dropped charges against dietary cholesterol, recommending that it can no longer be considered a "nutrient of concern."

The new thinking: scarfing down cholesterol-chocked delicacies does not appear to significantly affect the level of cholesterol in the blood for many people. It won't spike the risk of a heart attack, if they don't also gorge on foods high in still-hazardous-to-your-health saturated fats and trans fats.

To which we say: Grrrrr. All those years of snubbing scrambled eggs! All those guilty gulpings of cholesterol-chocked grilled shrimp! All that angst, guilt, paranoia ... for what?

Current U.S. guidelines tell Americans to restrict cholesterol to 300 milligrams a day. But it turns out there hasn't been much scientific evidence lately to bolster four decades of dire warnings about cholesterol. Studies "were mostly historic, inadequately designed and insufficient in number" to make such a strong anti-cholesterol statement, University of Colorado medical professor Robert Eckel tells us.

Why did this conclusion take so many years? "It's just one of those things that gets carried forward and carried forward even though the evidence is minimal," Eckel told The Washington Post.

This cholesterol thunderbolt is likely to be part of a new edition of the federal government's influential "dietary guidelines" publication. These guidelines, to be issued later this year, influence the American food industry, what schools serve in lunches, and possibly even what doctors tell confused patients. (Hmmm. How long before clever food marketers label their wares "rich in government-approved cholesterol"?)

The panel's U-turn on cholesterol, however, already has befuddled some experts. Lawrence Rudel, a professor of molecular medicine at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, tells us there's no need to back off the cholesterol warnings.

Some people—as many as a quarter of Americans—are sensitive to cholesterol; if they eat too much, the cholesterol level in their blood rises and that can bring health risks. The rest of the population, however, isn't all that sensitive, he says.

So the recommendation to avoid cholesterol-rich foods was aimed to help the sensitive, Rudel says. As for the majority, reducing cholesterol intake doesn't hurt anyone's health.

One question doctors are likely to hear: Does this cholesterol cease-fire mean Americans can toss statins, which lower blood cholesterol levels? No, says Dr. Neil Stone, a cardiology professor at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. "Research shows that high cholesterol levels are often caused by genetics, although in some people diet can play a strong role," he says. So keep taking those pills—and keep hewing to a heart-healthy diet.

In his 1973 comedy classic "Sleeper," Woody Allen awakes two centuries in the future and asks for wheat germ, organic honey and tiger's milk.

One scientist, eyebrows raised, muses that those are "charmed substances that some years ago were thought to contain life-preserving properties."

"You mean there was no deep fat, no steak, or cream pies or

See EGG on Next Page

Shock, awe and Jeb Bush's foreign policy dream team

By JOSH ROGIN
Bloomberg News

Josh Rogin is a Bloomberg View *columnist. Readers may send him email at oshrogin@bloomberg.net.*

Jeb Bush made a bold play in announcing a large roster of foreign policy advisers for his expected presidential campaign, and it drew the ire of many in the Republican foreign-policy world.

Ahead of his speech Wednesday at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Bush's aides released the list of experts whose careers span the administrations of Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush. Meanwhile, in his speech, he pitched himself as aligning with none of those past presidents: "I am my own man."

Among many Washington Republicans, Bush's showcasing of his adviser list was seen as a brazen attempt to present the image of a front-runner and even a veneer of invincibility. Several Republican foreign policy veterans bristled at what they saw as the campaign's effort to pressure top experts to commit to him before the primary campaign has even started and before other prospective candidates have been able to make their cases.

"I've certainly heard that view expressed," said former Romney adviser and under secretary of defense for policy Eric Edelman, referring to the angst in GOP foreign policy circles about Bush's tactics. "It's not a good thing for any campaign to project an air of entitlement."

"The shock and awe Jeb has attempted on the fundraising side now extends to the policy side, where they are trying to lock down support," said a Republican who advised Mitt Romney on foreign policy in 2012 and who has not yet committed for2016. "They want monogamy. But not everybody they approached said yes."

Top aides to Bush, including former Wal-Mart chief executive officer Bill Simon, have been meeting with a host of Republican ex-officials, think-tank scholars and political operatives to ask them to sign on now. The pressure is implicit, because those who decline risk being cut out of the inner circle as the campaign moves forward.

But there's a real down side for Bush in naming so many brain-trust members so early, several GOP former officials told me. For one thing, by listing several people who fundamentally disagree on major issues, Bush may be setting up a team that is perpetually in conflict. For example, Robert Zoellick, the former U.S. trade representative, and Paul Wolfowitz, the former deputy secretary of defense, are unlikely to see eye to eye on much. Potential voters could also be confused by a team that has no clear ideological identity, especially one advising a candidate who has little to no foreign policy experience.

Still, said Edelman, Bush may benefit ultimately by including people from across the Republican foreign policy spectrum. And top advisers who served in both previous Bush administrations could provide a bridge between the realists and the neoconservatives.

Another potential problem for Bush is that by making his team public now, their comments and actions become attributed to the campaign, whether the candidate agrees or not. For example, former Secretary of State James Baker came under criticism when it was announced he will be a keynote speaker at the conference for J Street, an Israel-related nongovernmental group that many Republicans criticize. "There's a case to be made for staying below the radar," one top GOP political operative said. "You're creating a whole host of targets for the media and your opponents to dig into."

Similarly, Bush has already been criticized for taking on advisers who had a role in the 2003 Iraq invasion. In his speech, Bush said that mistakes were made during the Iraq war but that his brother's decision to surge troops there in 2007 was "one of the most historic acts of courage politically" he had ever seen. He criticized President Barack Obama's decision to withdraw all troops in 2011.

There's an understanding in the GOP foreign policy community that Bush's foreign policy team is not necessarily a reflection of his views on national security issues and that he will likely have to run a campaign on foreign policy that balances between the need to stay to the hawkish side of Hillary Clinton and the recognition that going too far to the right could alienate voters in a general election.

As a former governor, Bush cannot run on his foreign policy credentials, so he is expected to follow the basic path that Romney used successfully to cut his national security deficit with Obama in 2012. He will criticize Obama's policies as failures, promote a stronger and more assertive American foreign policy, and avoid outlining specific remedies for complicated problems as much as possible.

"America does not have the luxury of withdrawing from the world," Bush said Wednesday, sounding a lot like Romney in 2012. "We have no reason to apologize for our leadership ... nothing and no one can replace strong American leadership."

In the end, campaign foreign policy teams tend to be used sparingly anyway. Candidates usually rely on a few select confidants to write their speeches and their talking points. Scores of foreign policy "advisers" spend most of the campaign arguing among themselves and writing policy papers that never get read.

But the tradition in Washington, especially in the Republican Party, is that foreign policy heavyweights wait until late in the campaign to choose a candidate. By leaning early on many people who owe their careers to his father or his brother, Bush is breaking that tradition. Now that he has taken on so many advisers, he could struggle to uphold his pledge to be his own man.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Humidde na gima' saguale

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Iha'ane nubladu inakompapaña chata'an. Ni un' paluma mattu man-bisita gi troñkun lemon na oga'an. Sige lumiliku' hinasoghu pot gima' saguale ni hu hatsa gi un' taduñg kañadan guinefi-hu.

I satge gaige dose pe ginen i tanu'. Bintanan sanhaya ha fafana' 'nai dodoku' i atdau yan i pachot mañglu'. Hu afte añglu' troñkun karisu. Gai gua'ot ni hu pepega gi un' banda 'an kahulu'yu' dispues de lemlem tautau dumeskansa.

Ti nesessariu kandet sa' suffisiente ginen ma'lag mapagahes. 'An gualafon i pilan, gaige gi hilu' tasi gi sanlagu gi oran 'las kuattro ha i'ina i kusinahu gi sanpapa'. Oran manotnen guafe para bai' na'loglug i primet na takurin kafe.

Todu katne yan guihan hu ha'me gi hilu' i feggun 'sino hu tala' gi hilu' sin i kusina. Mamagteyu' hanom para usuhu, diariu.

Hu utut un' to'a na tañgantañgan kulan baston. Huna sesetbe 'an hu osñgan latan nababue 'an para bai nachochu i gahu puetka.

'An brabu siñienteghu, hu usune mañguha un' iñgglera para kamute. Huna' setbe kubu man-guadog hoyu para simiyan choda. Hu ususune i kama' 'an para bai fan rempesa gi oriyan tinanom golai siha yan gulusina.

Gaige gi oriyan guma' man-loka' troñkun mames yan niyog kulan payu ni umatahe ininan atdau diariu. Manotohge i paluman chuñge' gi ramas tatkilu' gi tiempun mañada' yan kuleka 'sino deskansu gi biradan tasi.

Tai bisinu i lugat pot 'nos kuantos miyas. Pa'gu 'an guaha man-bisita peskadot ayuyu yan binadu guaha 'nai mapoluye-yu' paketin chupa 'sino mahulog i ramas troñku señat na man-ginen ayu siha. 'An abundansia, huna' guaha fina' neñkanu' gi kusina para usun niha.

I katen paluma pat finatton motmut uchan 'an chatagmag-yu' pumapañgon. Atbettu bintanahu 'an pueñge 'nai libianu hu li'e man-bonitan miyon pot miyon na pution siha gi lañget.

Hu dimimoria todu troñku gi oriyahu kontodu 'an poduñg añglu' ramas siha ni sessu man-binila 'an chata'an.

Paluma ni umayu'us-yu' 'an oga'an hu poluluye na'ña poñgpuñg pan. I katun halom tanu' lokue' hu asisiste pot hana' fan ñusuha i chaka' siha. Libre pinegsaihu siha gi oriyan lanchu.

Gaiga'yu' galagu hu fana'an Skipper. Hasan humauhau. Fiet na gachoñg. Pot ti sessu umesalau kumonfitma na pas yan safu i lugat. Lau lumililiku' gi propiadat ha rikononose todu.

Guaha 'nai man-dalagyu' taleyeru layeye pot para bai' libetteyu'. Gi halom dos tapada ya ha kone' buyadan tiao mauleg siempre patteghu para kelaguen pat inaflitun pattun. Finu' un' tiuhu, "finababa i finadeni"". Hu asnen tukun pumalu para 'an guaha fina' agu'un haya tat kumu saubog sune pat chodan tanduke 'sino pinada' titiyas.

Estorian lanchun kueru gi hinasoghu pot akomparasion yan modetnu na linala' natibu ni muna' fañgikilulog hinassota na tiempu. Guaguan guma padet ni chinaflulun interes ni bañkon ifit yan apas insurance fuera de ha gu'ot insurance ha'animu!

Gigon ti un' pegaye air-condision pues haf' na tostus panroyu hau. Pinalo'pu' otru obliglasion gi guaguan kandet. Trabiha ti humahalom lamayot patte gi otru obligasion familia siha. Haf' linala'ta na mamunu' troñkun niyog. Buente ta letke haf' diberas nesessidat-ta pot para tafan mama' si Mr. and Mrs. Jones! I hinatsaghu gima' saguale solu gi guinefihu!

Minagof gi sadog hinimidde

Ha tuñgu' si nanan mame nesessidat kada unu. Lau megaiña besis na ni sinsiyu gi pottanmonedan familia. Mañaunau ham gi rinikohen para sentadan yan mantension todus.

Megai magahet man-chatsaga guihe na tiempu pot appenanas cho'chu' gi hiniyuñg i Navy. Man-suette lamayot patte na memetgot ha' trabiha tradision fangualu'an ni mafalague ensegidas.

Tat kusina ti a'asu 'an chatagmag. Kontodu hame in' usune finatinas amotsan oga'an antes de misa. Dispues de eskuela, in' tilus ham para i lanchun As Perdido 'in assiste tinanom yan pinegsai. Esta i lemlem tautau na in' bibira ham tatte.

Gi uttimon semana, entre gualu, man-dalalag peskadot 'sino peskan halom tanu' ayuyu, manog hatsadu yan man-hale' gatdu'. Magahet na man-suette ham guihe na tiru siha na metgot inarikonose yan inafoglfi'e bisinu siha. Todu mañaunau gi che'chu' komunida tat kumu gupot patron yan nobena. Taya' trastes mame 'sino materiat lau man-machuchuda' ham kinententu yan minagof!

Inebaluan adelanto

Yangin ta ebalua satton kinalamten-ta, ta pepesa kau haf' na adelanto mattu gi linala'ta gi todu hinanau familia. Finenina ta pesa kuantu fuetsaña i pesu ni ta gagana pa'gu. Yangin giya Hawaii $.85 fuetsaña i pesu, kuantu mohon guine 'nai mas guaguan i gaston linala'?

Maila ta po'lu na $5.50 gi ora un' gagana. Ileghu na menos ke bente siñko sientimus fuetsaña kibleta gi kada pesu. Ala kuenta $.40 un' chuchule' para i gima diariamente. I tutat depende gi kuantu un' gagana gi ora. Lau fuetsan kada pesu ennau i $.40 sientimus ya i monedan gi mediu mes $32 pesus. Siña mohon disientamente un' prebeniye familia nesessidatña? Pega i mismu asuntu gi fumafaisen hau botu!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

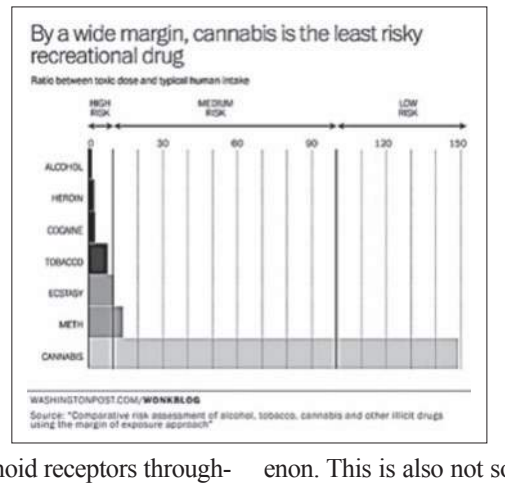
Myths destroyed for you to consider!

This is for the general public to consider for the upcoming public hearings on the recent marijuana bill for medical use. Proponents for legalization are pushing for full legalization (medical, medicinal, and recreational use) as this is an issue for all the people, not just the special interest of the sick.

Now that the marijuana bill has been introduced again but with the reality that legalization is taking place throughout America, there is a growing hope and belief that the CNMI is growing socially with an ever growing need to prosper economically for inspiration to legalize IT. After all, there are still signs and stickers everywhere saying "We Love IT" so why not live up to the hype! But seriously, there have been many myths about marijuana that are now being destroyed by facts and research that I want to share with readers, especially those who want to make educated comments in the upcoming Senate hearings on the legalization bill.

Myth No. 1 destroyed: That marijuana is so addictive and dangerous. But *The Washington Post* has published creditable research that proves different. Headlines: "Marijuana may be even safer than previously thought, researchers say"; "New study: We should stop fighting marijuana legalization and focus on alcohol and tobacco instead"

Myth No. 2 destroyed: Marijuana's surprising effects on athletic performance. It turns out marijuana might actually help some people perform *better* at certain sports.

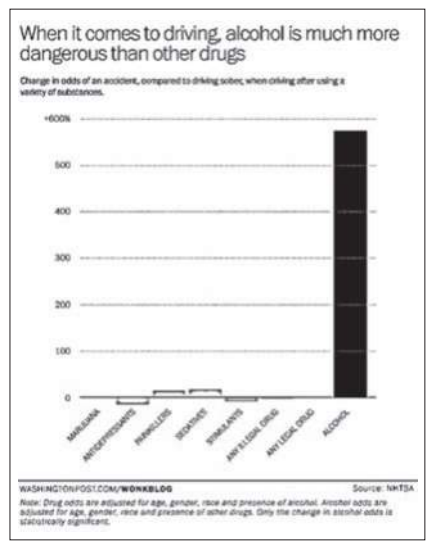


In November, *Men's Journal* interviewed elite triathlete Clifford Drusinsky, a Colorado gym owner who also leads training sessions fueled by marijuana edibles. "Marijuana relaxes me and allows me to go into a controlled, meditational place," Drusinsky told *Men's Journal*. "When I get high, I train smarter and focus on form." Stanford Medical School professor Keith Humphreys explained that there's a scientific explanation for this. "We have cannabinoid receptors throughout our brains, and when the THC hits those receptors, it triggers a system that reduces anxiety," Humphreys said.

Outside Magazine correspondent Gordy Megroz wrote in the February issue of that magazine that while he has never been much of a pot smoker, he heard enough close friends—especially skiers—say that getting high helped their performance that he decided to give it a shot

Myth No. 3 destroyed: Teens will go crazy to smoke weed. I was not able to find any research proving that a large number of teens did or would go crazy using marijuana, just a few isolated incidents. But the lack of evidence is proof the vast majority of youth did not go crazy over marijuana in Colorado or Washington State. But it was reported by Christopher Ingraham in a study that: Teenagers who smoke marijuana daily are over 60 percent less likely to complete high school than those who never use. They're also 60 percent less likely to graduate college and seven times more likely to attempt suicide.

But this study does proves we need to extend and even maximize our education efforts regardless of legalization as the mind and mentality of a teenager is not mature and equipped to deal with any mind-altering substance. In fact, many adults even need to be educated about mind-altering substances as it is our youth who are campaigning and leading the protest against tobacco and alcohol use. So don't worry about our youth, just keep educating them. The good part is that with pot legalization there will be more than enough funding for education on the use of marijuana and all vices. The Colorado Public School System alone got a commitment from the State Legislature of $98 million extra over time to be used only for drug education!


When it comes to driving, alcohol is much more dangerous than other drugs
Change in odds of an accident, compared to driving sober, when driving after using a variety of substances.
+600%
500
400
300
200
100
0
MARIJUANA
ANTIDEPRESSANTS
PAINKILLERS
SEDATIVES
STIMULANTS
ANY ILLEGAL DRUG
ANY LEGAL DRUG
ALCOHOL
WASHINGTONPOST.COM/WONKBLOG
Source: NHTSA
Note: Drug odds are adjusted for age, gender, race and presence of alcohol. Alcohol odds are adjusted for age, gender, race and presence of other drugs. Only the change in alcohol odds is statistically significant.

Myth No. 4 destroyed: Marijuana is more dangerous than alcohol. Given the CNMI is already saturated with pot smokers and that it can be found in every village, the myth that it will change our way of life is not supported by any facts or phenomenon. This is also not so much about getting high as it is about the rebuilding of our economic engine. When the garment industry left our economic engine broke down. The casino is only part of the restoration for the restarting of our economic engine, which is why legalization is needed to provide the critical parts to complete the process of restarting our engine. Furthermore, it is really common knowledge that all usages of marijuana is the intended end results so we shouldn't play around with it only being for medical use but for all uses (medical, medicinal, performance and social/recreational).

The myth that marijuana is bad because it is illegal: Well, most readers are now educated enough to know that this myth is ridiculous so I won't expand on it. But there is an update from an important person in Washington who is pushing for more research in all areas of marijuana use that can only be done if marijuana is fully legalized.

In a recent interview with *CBS This Morning*, Dr. Murthy, U. S. Surgeon General, said: "My position is we have to see what the science tells us about the efficacy of marijuana. We have preliminary data showing that for certain medical conditions and symptoms that marijuana can be helpful, so I think we have to use that data to drive policymaking, and I'm very interested to where that data takes us." (CBS News)

P.S.: Please get educated on marijuana and attend the upcoming public hearings to show your support for legalization. You don't have to say anything, just come and show support, our leaders will get the message. This new industry is a serious issue you should not brush off as it offers hundreds of high paying jobs with cultivators becoming millionaires over time, hundreds of millions in revenues for our government and widespread prosperity for businesses and a better quality of life for the average citizen of the CNMI that will surely include some form of subsidies for CHC and to help with the ever growing CUC bills.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

EGG

From Page 10

hot fudge?" another scientist asks, incredulous.

No, the first scientist responds. "Those were thought to be unhealthy—precisely the opposite of what we now know to be true."

Next up for scientific exoneration: Who knows? The cholesterol bombshell won't be the last time scientists get egg on their faces. Scientific insurrections are underway over salt, sugar and other foods that carry warnings about overconsumption.

Science evolves. What's true today may be discredited tomorrow. That's healthy. No need to apologize, scientists. Just pass the omelet, please.

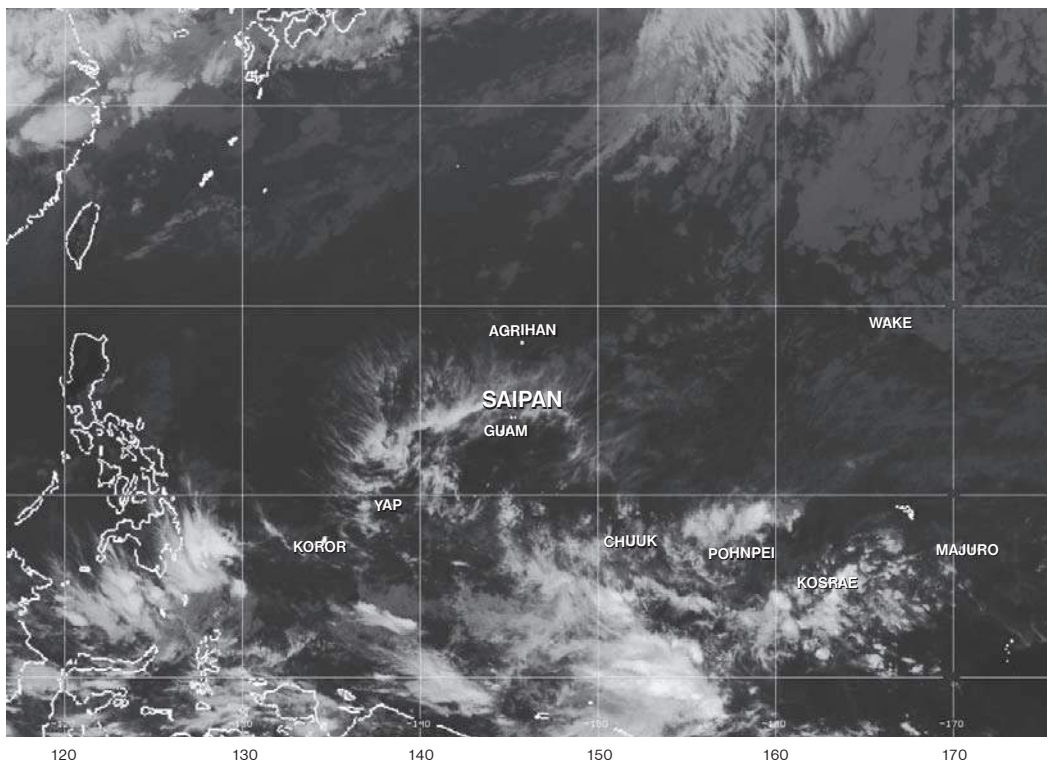
(c)2015 Chicago Tribune

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends northeastward from 2N130E to 6N144E then curves southeastward to end south of Pohnpei near 1N159E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen south and west of Chuuk within 150 miles of a line from 7N150E to EQ154E. A shear line stretches southwestward from the date line at 14N180E to near Pohnpei at 8N156E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are present along and up to 400 miles northwest of this boundary. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found within this area west of 162E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest of Kwajelein and Majuro within 200 miles of a line from 2N159E to 7N168E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲79	▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲45	▼22
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼66
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲54	▼46
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲73	▼51
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼72
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼57
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼71
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲40	▼17
Osaka	Rain	▲53	▼40
Paris	Showers	▲49	▼41
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲55	▼26
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼47
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼45
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼50
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲37	▼22
Tokyo	Rain	▲48	▼43
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲42	▼27

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:20 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
7:30 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
1:00 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:40 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:37 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:36 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:36 AM	6:25 PM
Sunday	6:35 AM	6:25 PM
Monday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:19 AM	12:32A M
Friday	1:10 PM	1:25 AM
Saturday	2:00 PM	2:16 AM
Sunday	2:50 PM	3:04 AM
Monday	3:40 PM	3:50 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daiily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

Used cars often sold with unfixed defects, despite recalls

DETROIT (AP)—It's a case of buyer beware, with potentially dangerous consequences.

More than 46 million cars and trucks on the road in the U.S.—about one-fifth the total—were recalled because of safety defects but never repaired, according to a study by Carfax, a company that sells vehicle history reports. Some of those defects have the potential to cause a crash, injury, even death.

Last year, around 5 million of those cars were sold to new owners.

That's because there is no legal requirement for dealers or individual sellers to get the repairs done before a used car is sold. They are not even obligated to tell buyers if a car is subject to a recall.

"It's a very major public safety problem," says Chris Basso, a used-car specialist for Carfax, which analyzed state registration data to determine that one-fifth of the 238 million cars on the nation's roads has an unrepaired problem that was the subject of a recall. "When those recalled cars go unfixed, they compound over the years, and it increases the chance of those parts failing."

Federal regulators are pushing for legislation that requires dealers to fix recalled used cars. Independent dealers oppose such a measure but say they might go along with a requirement to disclose recalls to buyers because a new government database makes it easier to tell if a car on their lot has been recalled.

The number of unfixed cars is certain to rise because automakers recalled nearly 64 million vehicles nationwide last year, double the old record set in 2004. Government data show that 25 percent of car owners never get recall repairs done.

No one is sure how many crashes or injuries happen because of unheeded recalls.

AP

In this Feb. 14, 2015 picture, Eri and John Castro pose in front of their 2011 Toyota Prius in Glen Burnie, Md. The Castros bought the pre-owned car last year, only to find out after they got it home that it was under recall because it could stall without warning.

But buying an unrepaired car cost Carlos Solis his life. The 35-year-old father of two died Jan. 18 when shrapnel from the driver's air bag in his 2002 Honda Accord tore into his neck after a minor accident near Houston.

Solis' Accord had been recalled in 2011 to fix a faulty air bag inflator made by Takata Corp. that can explode with too much force. But neither the two previous owners, nor the independent dealer in Houston who sold Solis the car last April, had the repair done.

Solis had no other injuries, says Rob Ammons, an attorney representing his family in a lawsuit against Takata, Honda and the dealer. "You fix the defective air bag and he doesn't die," Ammons says.

Federal law requires car companies to notify owners of a recall within 60 days of finding a safety defect, which Honda did in 2011. But there's no legal requirement that companies contact the new owner if a car changes hands.

In a bind, Republicans offer vote on Homeland Security bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—A partial agency shutdown looming, Senate Republicans offered Tuesday to permit a vote on Homeland Security funding legislation stripped of immigration provisions backed by conservatives but strongly opposed by President Barack Obama and fellow Democrats.

"We could have that vote very quickly," Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said as his party struggled to escape a political predicament of their own making involving an agency with major anti-terrorism responsibilities.

McConnell said he did not know how the Republican-controlled House would respond if a stand-alone spending bill passed the Senate. Underscoring the realities of divided government, Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada initially said he wouldn't agree to the proposal unless it had the backing of House Speaker John Boehner, in a sign it would be likely to clear the House.

With House Republicans scheduled to meet privately Wednesday to discuss the issue, Boehner's office issued a statement that neither accepted nor rejected the proposal McConnell outlined to end weeks of gridlock.

"The speaker has been clear: The House has acted, and now Senate Democrats need to stop hiding. Will they continue to block funding for the Department of Homeland Security or not?" said Boehner spokesman Michael Steel.

Some House conservatives criticized the proposal, but one lawmaker allied with the leadership predicted it might win approval. Noting that a federal judge in Texas has issued an order blocking implementation of Obama's plan to shield millions of immigrants from deportation, Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma said the court had "effectively stopped the president's executive action," at least for now. "So I don't think we'd run the risk of shutting down Homeland Security," he added.

Yellen navigates tricky path on interest rates

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen navigated the tricky job of managing expectations on Tuesday in her first public comments on interest rate policy in more than two months.

She wanted the world to know the Fed isn't ready yet to raise rates from record lows. The job market is still healing, and inflation is too low, she said. At the same time, Yellen signaled that the Fed is moving closer to a rate hike by sketching the steps the central bank would take when it deemed the time was right.

In delivering the Fed's semiannual economic report before the Senate Banking Committee, Yellen tried to balance the public's thirst for information on the Fed's future plans, while giving the central bank as much flexibility as possible to tweak monetary policy on its own terms.

The Fed has two mandates: maximum employment and price stability. The dilemma Yellen faces now is that the two measures are heading in opposite directions.

Yellen told lawmakers that the U.S. economy is making steady progress toward what the Fed defines as "maximum employment"—an unemployment rate between 5.2 percent and 5.5 percent. The jobless rate in January stood at 5.7 percent, down from a high of 10 percent in late 2009. Yellen, however, noted that the labor market had not totally healed, in large part because wage growth has been weak.

"Considerable progress has been achieved in the recovery of the labor market, though room for improvement remains," Yellen said.

Inflation is a thornier issue. The Fed's goal is for inflation to hit 2 percent annually. But for more than two years, inflation has been rising well below that level. It has retreated further from the Fed's target in recent months due to the stronger dollar and lower oil prices.

After Yellen's remarks, private economists weighed in with their forecasts. Many said a rate hike looks likely in June. Others said September.

"The Fed is trying to manage a difficult situation in dealing with the uncertainty surrounding the economic outlook," said Paul Edelstein, director of financial services at Global Insight. "Yellen sees a path to rate hikes but knows the value of maintaining discretion."

Southwest is grounding 128 planes over missed inspections

DALLAS (AP)—Southwest Airlines says it has grounded 128 planes after failing to inspect backup hydraulic systems used to control the rudder if the main system fails.

The airline said Tuesday night that it had canceled 90 flights so far. The grounding covers about one-fifth its fleet.

Southwest spokeswoman Brandy King said that after discovering the missed inspections, the airline immediately notified federal safety regulators and began checking the planes.

A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration, Lynn Lunsford, said that the FAA was working with Southwest and Boeing, which manufactured the planes, to evaluate a plan that would let the airline keep flying the planes until the inspections are completed over the next few days.

The missed inspections were first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

King called the missed inspections inadvertent. She said the airline discovered that 128 of its Boeing 737-700 jets already had flown beyond the point at which the backup hydraulic systems were supposed to be inspected. She said safety was the airline's top priority, and it was working to fix the matter quickly.

Dallas-based Southwest is the nation's fourth-biggest airline. It has 665 jets, all of which are some version of the Boeing 737, including nearly 450 of the 737-700. That model seats 137 or 143 passengers, depending on the layout.

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EXCHANGE RATES

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Australian Dollar	1.2684	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7558	Philippine Peso	44.0854
British Pound	0.6462	Indian Rupee	62.0612	Singapore Dollar	1.357
Canadian Dollar	1.2457	Indonesian Rupiah	12881.23	South Korean Won	1099.96
Chinese Yuan	6.2464	Japanese Yen	118.7139	Swiss Franc	0.9503
Euro	0.8815	Malaysian Ringgit	3.6226	Taiwan Dollar	31.5272
		New Zealand Dollar	1.3262	Thailand Baht	32.5398

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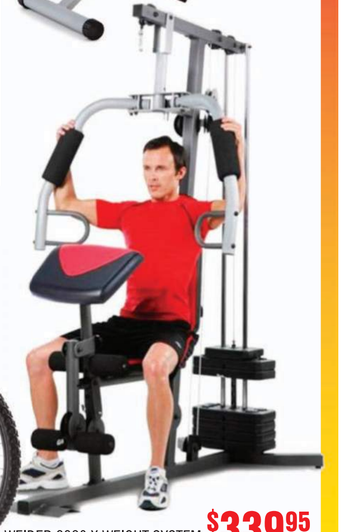

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Nation

Man convicted in deaths of 'American Sniper' author, friend

AP
Former Marine Cpl. Eddie Ray Routh, center, enters the court for his capital murder trial at the Erath County, Donald R. Jones Justice Center in Stephenville Texas, on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015.

STEPHENVILLE, Texas (AP)—A former Marine was convicted Tuesday in the deaths of the "American Sniper" author and another man at a shooting range two years ago, as jurors rejected defense arguments that he was insane and suffered from psychosis.

The trial of Eddie Ray Routh has drawn intense interest, in part because of the blockbuster film based on former Navy SEAL Chris Kyle's memoir about his four tours in Iraq.

Since prosecutors didn't seek the death penalty in the capital murder case, the 27-year-old receives an automatic life sentence without parole in the deaths of Kyle and Kyle's friend, Chad Littlefield.

The prosecution painted Routh as a troubled drug user who knew right from wrong, despite any mental illnesses. While trial testimony and evidence often included Routh making odd statements and referring to insanity, he also confessed several times, apologized for the crimes and tried to evade police.

Criminal law experts said the verdict hinged on whether the defense could prove Routh was insane and did not know the killings were wrong at the time they were committed. Jurors had three options: find Routh guilty of capital murder, find him not guilty, or find him not guilty by reason of insanity. If found not guilty by reason of insanity, the court could have initiated proceedings to have him committed to a state mental hospital.

Kyle and Littlefield had taken Routh to the shooting range at Rough Creek Lodge and Resort on Feb. 2, 2013, after Routh's mother asked Kyle to help her troubled son. Family members say Routh suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder from serving in Iraq and in Haiti after the devastating 2010 earthquake.

A forensic psychologist testified for prosecutors that Routh was not legally insane and suggested he may have gotten some of his ideas from television. Dr. Randall Price said Routh had a paranoid disorder made worse by his use of alcohol and marijuana, calling his condition "cannabis-induced psychosis."

Defense attorneys noted that Kyle had described Routh as "straight-up nuts" in a text message to Littlefield as they drove to the luxury resort.

Among evidence entered by prosecutors was a recorded phone call between Routh and a reporter from The New Yorker magazine in which Routh said he was annoyed Littlefield wasn't shooting, but instead seemed to be watching him.

"Are you gonna shoot? Are you gonna shoot? It's a shooting sport. You shoot," Routh said in the phone call. "That's what got me all riled up."

Defense attorneys said Routh, who had been prescribed antipsychotic medication often used for schizophrenia, believed the men planned to kill him.

"I had to take care of business. I took care of business, and then I got in the truck and left," Routh said in the phone call.

A resort employee discovered the bodies of Kyle and Littlefield about 5 p.m.; each had been shot several times. About 45 minutes later, authorities say Routh pulled up to his sister's home in Kyle's truck and told her he had killed two people.

She called police, who later located Routh sitting in front of his home in the truck. A police video shown by prosecutors showed officers trying to coax him from the truck while he makes comments including: "I don't know if I'm going insane" and "Is this about hell walking on earth right now?"

Abandoned truck's driver arrested after commuter train crash

OXNARD, Calif. (AP)—A commuter train bound for Los Angeles derailed before dawn Tuesday in a fiery collision with an abandoned commercial pickup after the truck's driver took a wrong turn and got stuck on the tracks.

There was a loud boom and the screech of brakes before three of the train's five cars toppled over, sending 30 people to hospitals. Four were in critical condition, including the engineer.

"It seemed like an eternity while we were flying around the train. Everything was flying," said passenger Joel Bingham. "A brush of death definitely came over me."

Lives were likely saved by passenger cars designed to absorb a crash. They were purchased after a deadly collision a decade ago, Metrolink officials said. The four passenger cars remained largely intact, as did the locomotive.

Police found the disoriented driver of the demolished Ford F-450 pickup 1.6 miles from the crossing 45 minutes after the crash, said Jason Benites, an assistant chief of the Oxnard Police Department.

That driver, Jose Alejandro Sanchez-Ramirez, 54, of Yuma, Arizona, was briefly hospitalized then arrested Tuesday afternoon on suspicion of felony hit-and-run, Benites said.

Sanchez-Ramirez, who delivers produce, was driving a pickup with an empty bed pulling a trailer with some welding equipment in it. He told police he tried to turn right at an intersection but turned prematurely and his truck got stuck straddling the rails.

Police said they tested Sanchez-Ramirez for drugs and alcohol but they would not discuss the results.

The crossing where the crash happened has been the scene of many collisions over the years.

The train, the first of the morning on the Ventura route, had just left its second stop of Oxnard on its way to downtown Los Angeles, about 65 miles away, when it struck the truck around 5:45 a.m. There were 48 passengers aboard and three crew members who were all injured.

Justice Dept.: No federal charges in Trayvon Martin death

MIAMI (AP)—George Zimmerman, the former neighborhood watch volunteer who fatally shot Trayvon Martin in a 2012 confrontation with the teenager, will not face federal charges, the Justice Department said Tuesday.

The decision, announced in the waning days of Attorney General Eric Holder's tenure, resolves a case that focused public attention on self-defense laws and became a flashpoint in the national conversation about race two years before the Ferguson, Missouri, police shooting.

Zimmerman has maintained that he acted in self-defense when he shot the 17-year-old Martin during a confrontation inside a gated community in Sanford, Florida, just outside Orlando. Martin, who was black, was unarmed when he was killed. Zimmerman identifies himself as Hispanic.

Once Zimmerman was acquitted of second-degree murder by a state jury in July 2013, Martin's family turned to the federal investigation in final hopes that he would be held accountable for the shooting.

That probe focused on whether Zimmerman could be charged with a federal hate crime in the killing and whether he willfully deprived Martin of his civil rights, a difficult legal standard to meet. Federal investigators, who independently conducted dozens of interviews, ultimately determined there was insufficient evidence to prove Zimmerman killed the teenager on account of his race.

"Our decision not to pursue federal charges does not condone the shooting that resulted in the death of Trayvon Martin and is based solely on the high legal standard applicable to these cases," Vanita Gupta, the Justice Department's top civil rights lawyer, said in a statement announcing the decision.

Zimmerman's attorney, Don West, was on a flight and couldn't immediately comment on the decision. A call to Zimmerman's cellphone went directly to voicemail.

Martin's parents were too distraught after their meeting in Miami with Justice Department officials to speak with reporters, said their attorney Ben Crump, who called the decision a "bitter pill to swallow" even though it was expected.

"What they told his family and I was that because Trayvon wasn't able to tell us his version of events, there was a lack of evidence to bring the charges. That's the tragedy," Crump said.

The February 2012 confrontation began after Zimmerman observed Martin while driving in his neighborhood. Zimmerman called police and got out of his car and approached Martin, who was returning from a store while visiting his father and his father's fiancee at the same townhome complex where Zimmerman lived.

ACROSS THE NATION

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel forced into April runoff election

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel failed to capture a majority of the vote in Tuesday's municipal election, an embarrassment for the former White House chief of staff because it forces him into a runoff this spring against Cook County Commissioner Jesus "Chuy" Garcia. The result exposed possible vulnerability for an incumbent who has widespread support from business leaders, national name recognition and millions of dollars in his campaign fund. He participated in half a dozen debates and forums and received a last-minute boost from President Barack Obama. Still, he wasn't able to capture the more than 50 percent necessary to avoid an April runoff against Garcia, who finished far below Emanuel's vote total but far above the other three challengers.

Woman wishes she could have saved son killed by police

KENNEWICK, Wash. (AP)—When Agapita Montes-Rivera first watched the video of her son being gunned down by police in Washington state, she rushed to the TV set in a futile effort to help him. The 60-year-old woman from tiny Parotita, Mexico, was more than 2,000 miles away and hadn't seen her son in a decade. "Truthfully, when I saw they were chasing him, and he puts his hands up, and they shoot him, I threw my hands at the television," Montes-Rivera said Tuesday. "Had I been there in person, I would have been the first to jump in so they wouldn't have shot him." Antonio Zambrano-Montes' Feb. 10 death in the agricultural city of Pasco has sparked protests and calls for a federal investigation. Police killed the unarmed man who spoke little English after he allegedly threw rocks at officers.

Asia

Family seeks royal pardon for jailed Malaysia's Anwar

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The family of jailed Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim has sought a royal pardon in a last-ditch effort to try free him from a sodomy conviction.

Anwar, 67, began a five-year prison sentence Feb. 10 after Malaysia's top court turned down his final legal appeal, ruling there was overwhelming evidence that he sodomized a former male aide.

Nurul Nuha Anwar, his second daughter, said in a statement late Tuesday that there has been a "miscarriage of justice" against her father, whom she described as a "political prisoner".

"The court may have pronounced a guilty verdict but our father is innocent," she said. "We placed our confidence in the constitutional process and believe that justice will prevail when all the facts are scrutinized without political intervention."

The case was widely seen as politically motivated to eliminate threats to the ruling coalition, whose popularity has eroded in the last two elections.

Anwar, who was seen as the most potent political threat to the government, was accused of sodomizing a former lowly aide in 2008. Homosexuality is a crime in Muslim-majority Malaysia, punishable by up to 20 years in prison and by whipping, although prosecutions are rare.

Ibrahim Suffian, political analyst with the Merdeka Centre think-tank, said he was surprised by the family's move, as requesting a pardon implied Anwar was guilty.

"The application can be viewed as a humanitarian gesture by the family, who is worried about his health," he said.

It was the second time Anwar was jailed for sodomy in just over a decade.

He previously was imprisoned for six years after being ousted as deputy prime minister in 1998 on earlier charges of sodomizing his former family driver and abusing his power. He was freed in 2004 after the top court quashed that sodomy conviction.

Anwar led his alliance to unprecedented gains in 2008 elections and made further inroads in 2013 polls. The ruling National Front coalition won with a slimmer majority and lost the popular vote to the opposition.

AP

In this Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015 file photo, Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, center, arrives at court house in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesia's president rejects any intervention in executions

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's president said Tuesday he will not accept any attempts by other countries to halt the execution of foreign drug traffickers. The government has announced plans to execute eight people—one Indonesian and seven foreigners from Australia, Brazil, France, Ghana, Nigeria and the Philippines. President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo told reporters that the death penalty is part of the country's legal system. "I need to say explicitly that there shouldn't be intervention in the issue of the executions because of our legal and political sovereignty," Jokowi said. He added that he has received phone calls from some foreign leaders asking that the executions be canceled, but rejected their requests.

Suspect in shooting deaths of 3 in S. Korea store found dead

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A gunman shot and killed three people Wednesday in a Sejong City convenience store that he then set on fire before fleeing, South Korean police said. The suspect was later found dead with a gunshot wound in his head in an apparent suicide. A hunting rifle was recovered near the suspect's body a few kilometers (miles) from the store, and another rifle was found in what appeared to be his vehicle, said a police official in Sejong City who refused to be named, citing office rules. The other dead were a father and son linked to the family that owned the store, and another man who'd been living with the elder man's daughter, the official said. Police don't yet know where the daughter is.

S. Korean spy chief says teenager joined Islamic State group

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A teenager who went missing in Turkey last month is probably the first known South Korean to join the Islamic State group, officials said Tuesday. The director of South Korea's National Intelligence Service, Lee Byung-kee, told legislators in a closed-door meeting that the 18-year-old man is now in Syria with an Islamic State group unit that trains combat personnel, opposition lawmaker Kim Kwang Jin said. Kim said Lee didn't reveal how the spy agency obtained the information or where the Islamic State group unit is based. The man, identified only by his last name, Kim, was last seen leaving a hotel in the Turkish border town of Kilis on Jan. 10. An official from Seoul's Foreign Ministry, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, citing office rules, confirmed that he would be the first known South Korean to join the militant group.

New Zealand to send troops to Iraq to train local forces

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand will send a small number of troops to Iraq to help train local forces in their battle against the Islamic State group, Prime Minister John Key announced Tuesday.

Key told lawmakers the country would deploy up to 143 military personnel, who would be based "behind the wire" and would train Iraqi security forces rather than being actively involved in combat missions.

Key and his government made the decision without putting it to a parliamentary vote, a contentious move which some say was prompted because the government didn't have the support it needed to win such a vote.

Key said most of the troops would likely be based in the Taji military base north of Baghdad as part of a joint mission with Australia. He said the two-year deployment would begin about May and would be reviewed by the government after nine months.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki welcomed New Zealand's decision to contribute defense personnel to the international coalition effort to "degrade and defeat" the Islamic State group. She said New Zealand had already provided substantial humanitarian assistance to Iraq and Syria.

Key said the government had been considering options to expand upon the humanitarian assistance it was already providing.

"New Zealand is a country that stands up for its values. We stand up for what is right," Key told lawmakers. "We have an obligation to support stability and the rule of law internationally. We do not shy away from taking our share of the burden when the international rules-based system is threatened, as it is today."

The announcement was criticized by opposition Labour Party leader Andrew Little, who said New Zealand should not be sending troops to Iraq and that lawmakers should have been given the opportunity to vote on the issue.

Little said it was unrealistic to say the troops would be there purely in a non-combat role.

Waning funds may end PH's 40-year bamboo organ fest

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—It has survived time, storms and wars. But a nearly 200-year-old bamboo pipe organ, said to be the oldest and most complete in the world, is facing what may be its biggest threats yet: pop music and dwindling donations.

For the last four decades, music lovers from as far away as the United States, Argentina, Australia and Europe have come every year to a Philippine Roman Catholic church to hear the organ, the centerpiece of an international music festival. Chances are, this year will be the festival's last edition.

Organizers say they are broke because funding from traditional donors including the Philippine government, European embassies and corporate sponsors is drying up. Private companies are more keen to be involved in pop concerts than classical music, said Leo Renier, a Belgian, who founded the International Bamboo Organ Festival in 1975.

"They (corporations) are more interested in entertainment," said Renier, a former priest and the festival's executive director. "If Justin Bieber of Canada comes, millions they are ready to spend."

Without the festival, the unique sound of the organ—completed in 1824 by the Spanish priest Diego Cera—would have no venue to really shine, Renier said. Sure, it would still be played during services at the St. Joseph Church in metropolitan Manila's Las Pinas city, but its sounds would never reach the ears of the world.

The organ, which is about 5 meters (17 feet) in height and 4 meters (13 feet) wide and occupies a portion of a wall on the left side of the church, produces clear, flute-like sounds through its 902 bamboo and 129 metal pipes. By pulling different knobs, an organist can make the instrument produce distinct sounds, which one player said was like calling on different members of an orchestra one after another.

As of last Wednesday, the eve of the eight-night festival that ends Friday, organizers had secured only a portion of the 3.2 million peso ($72,500) budget. The rest of the pledged donations had still not come in. Ticket sales alone were not enough to fund the performances. By next year, the reserves of the foundation that runs the festival will be dry.

World

Dozens of Christians abducted by Islamic militants in Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—The Islamic State militants struck before dawn, staging house-to-house raids in a cluster of villages nestled along the Khabur River in northeastern Syria. They abducted at least 70 Christians—many of them women and children—while thousands of others fled to safer areas.

The captives' fate was unclear Tuesday, a day after they were seized, and relatives said mobile phone service was cut off and land lines also were not going through, adding to the fear and uncertainty about their loved ones. Heavy fighting was reported in the area.

The Islamic State group has a history of killing captives, including foreign journalists, Syrian soldiers and Kurdish militiamen. Most recently, militants in Libya affiliated with the extremist group released a video showing the beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians.

The group's bloody campaign in Syria and Iraq, where it seeks to form a self-styled caliphate, has repeatedly targeted religious minorities since it took control of a third of both countries. The United States and coalition of regional partners are conducting a campaign of airstrikes against the group.

AP
In this Monday, June 16, 2014 file photo, demonstrators chant pro-Islamic State group slogans as they wave the group's flags in front of the provincial government headquarters in Mosul, 225 miles (360 kilometers) northwest of Baghdad, Iraq.

The militants struck near the town of Tal Tamr in Hassakeh province, an area predominated by Assyrian Christians. Most of the captives came from Tal Shamiram and some from Tal Hurmiz.

Nuri Kino, the head of a group called A Demand For Action, said between 70 and 100 Assyrians were taken captive. About 3,000 people fled and have sought refuge in the cities of Hassakeh and Qamishli, he said, adding that his activist group based its information on conversations with villagers who fled the attack and their relatives. His group focuses on religious minorities in the Middle East.

"Have they been slaughtered? Are they still alive? We're searching for any news," said an Assyrian Christian woman from Tal Shamiram who now lives in Beirut. The woman said she has been trying to find out what has become of her parents, her brother and his wife and their children, but couldn't reach anyone in the village.

"I feel so helpless, I cannot do anything for them but pray," she said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of endangering relatives believed to be held by the militants.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which also reported the abductions, put the number of Christians held by the Islamic State group at 90. The Observatory relies on a network of activists inside Syria.

Both groups said that most of the captives come from Tal Shamiram, located some 85 kilometers (50 miles) southwest of the provincial capital of Qamishli, and nearby Tal Hurmiz. At least four civilians, including a 17-year-old, were killed in clashes later Monday, a relative of one of the victims said on condition of anonymity.

Toddler dies of measles in Berlin, first death in outbreak

BERLIN (AP)—An 18-month-old boy has died of measles in Berlin, the first known death in an outbreak of the disease that has seen more than 570 cases in the German capital since October.

An autopsy on the child, who died on Feb. 18 and wasn't immunized against measles, showed he had an unspecified medical condition, but it wouldn't have led to his death without the measles infection, the Charite hospital said Tuesday.

The German outbreak coincides with smaller ones in the United States, where 154 measles cases have been reported this year, three-quarters of them tied to an outbreak that started in Disneyland in December.

Authorities believe the Berlin measles infections began with a child from Bosnia whose family was seeking asylum. The highly contagious illness then spread, partly because many older adults in Germany were never immunized and many younger adults received only one vaccine instead of two, as is now recommended for full protection. About half of those infected were adults, officials said.

9 dead including gunman in Czech restaurant shooting

PRAGUE (AP)—A gunman opened fire inside a small-town restaurant in eastern Czech Republic Tuesday, killing eight people and seriously wounding a waitress before he fatally shot himself, officials said. It was the worst shooting attack in the young country's history.

The gunman was a local man aged around 60, said Patrik Kuncar, mayor of the southeastern town of Uhersky Brod.

Czech public radio said the perpetrator called a local television station before the attack, complaining that police weren't solving his problems and threatening that he would "take things into his hands."

Interior Minister Milan Chovanec, who arrived at the scene, said the man had a gun license. "It was not a terrorist attack" he said.

The gunman was armed with two pistols and opened fire at the approaching police officers, Chovanec said.

The Czech Republic became an independent nation in 1993 after the split of Czechoslovakia.

The attack shocked the town of 17,000 that lies 300 kilometers (185 miles) southeast of Prague, the capital, and is home to the Ceska Zbrojovka gun plant.

"Nobody believed anything like that could happen in such a small town," Kuncar said. "I can hardly imagine what consequences it will have for the future life in this town."

The victims have been identified and were all from the region, Chovanec said.

Jamaica passes act decriminalizing small amounts of pot

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Jamaican lawmakers on Tuesday night passed an act to decriminalize small amounts of pot and establish a licensing agency to regulate a lawful medical marijuana industry on the Caribbean island.

After several hours of debate, legislators in the lower House on Tuesday gave final passage to drug law amendments that make possession of up to 2 ounces of marijuana a petty offense that would not result in a criminal record. Cultivation of five or fewer plants on any premises would be permitted in Jamaica, where the drug has long been culturally entrenched but illegal.

The law paves the way for a "cannabis licensing authority" to be set up to deal with regulations on cultivation and distribution of marijuana for medical, scientific and therapeutic purposes.

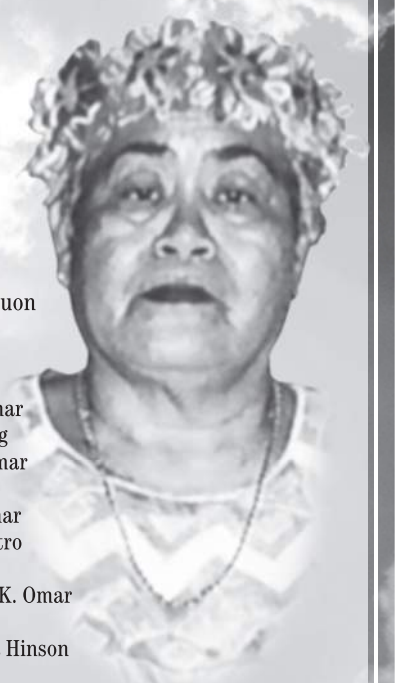
Rastafarians can also legally use marijuana now for religious purposes for the first time on the tropical island, where the spiritual movement was founded in the 1930s. And tourists who are prescribed medical marijuana abroad will soon be able to apply for permits at a cost authorizing them to legally buy small amounts of Jamaican weed, or "ganja" as it is known locally.

Peter Bunting, the island's national security minister, said authorization of the law does not mean that Jamaican government plans to soften its stance on transnational drug trafficking or cultivation of illegal plots.

In Loving Memory of

†Angelica Quitugua Aguon Omar

Born to Life: June 02, 1937 • Called to Eternal Life: February 22, 2015



In Her new life, Angelica now joins her:

Husband: †Joaquin Rogolofoi Omar
Parents: †Francisco Pinaula Aguon
†Rosa Dela Cruz Quitugua
Parents In Law: †Jose Angailen Omar
†Ana Rogolofoi Omar
Children: †Juan A. Omar
†Jeffrey A. Omar
Brothers & Sisters: †Dolores Quitugua, †Jose Quitugua, †Remedios Q. Naog, †Marcelina A. Pua, †Francisco Q. Aguon and †Esteven Q. Aguon

Her memories will forever live in hearts of her:

Children: **Edward** A. and Ana Omar
Elena A. and Ando Falig
Dimas A. and Ayoko Omar
Joseph A. Omar
Jesus A. and Oly D. Omar
Rosa O. and Eddie Castro
Julita A. Omar
James A. and Marylou K. Omar
Jovita A. Omar
Jennifer O. and Joshua Hinson

She will greatly be missed by numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Nightly Rosary is being prayed at Sta. Remedios Church in Tanapag at 7pm.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, March 02, 2015. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30am to Nuestra Señora Bithen Delos Remedios Church in Tanapag, followed by Responso service and Holy Rosary upon arrival of her remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by Interment Services at Tanapag Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us In Prayers,
Si Yu'us Maase-Thank You-Olomwaay
Children and Family of the Late †Joaquin Rogolofoi Omar and †Angelica Quitugua Aguon Omar

Environment

Scientists say ozone from Asia contributes to the West's pollution

By TONY BARBOZA
LOS ANGELES TIMES

CARMEL VALLEY, Calif.— High above the Big Sur coast, Ian Faloona is finding pollution on the edge of the continent, a place that should have some of the country's cleanest air.

From an astronomical observatory on Chews Ridge in the Santa Lucia Mountains, the University of California, Davis atmospheric scientist has for the last three years measured ozone, the lung-damaging gas in smog, as it arrives to California. The monitoring site, more than 5,000 feet above sea level on a pine-studded overlook above the lowest layer of the atmosphere, gives Faloona access to undisturbed air from across the Pacific before it is fouled by U.S. pollution sources.

He and other scientists at rural, high-altitude sites across the western U.S. have been documenting rising levels of ozone, which can trigger asthma attacks, worsen heart and lung disease and lead to premature deaths, even as emissions have plummeted nationwide over the last few decades.

Soaring emissions from China and other fast-growing Asian countries are blowing across the Pacific Ocean, they say, increasing baseline levels of ozone in the western U.S. In about a week, winds carry ozone formed by emissions from cars, factories and power plants in Asia to the U.S. West Coast, where it can add to locally generated pollution, worsening smog in cities such as Bakersfield, Fresno and Los Angeles.

The phenomenon is fueling a debate about just how much Asia is to blame for bad air in the U.S, one that could soon have health consequences for people across the West.

Scientists Gordon Jones, left, Jim Podolske, Andrew Post and Ian Faloona talk on the rooftop of the Bernard M. Oliver Observing Station in the Los Padres National Forest where they are collecting data to assess the quality of the air blowing ashore from the Pacific Ocean near Carmel, Calif., on January 7, 2015.
LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Experts say that as U.S. air quality improves, Asian emissions—previously thought to have a negligible effect here—are having a stronger influence on smog levels, particularly in western states that sit at higher elevation and are first exposed to the pollutants. In a development that has troubled health advocates, some local pollution regulators have begun arguing that they should not be penalized if Asian pollution is causing local smog to exceed health standards under the Clean Air Act.

Spearheading that effort is the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, which regulates industry to protect nearly 4 million people from Stockton to Bakersfield who breathe some of the nation's dirtiest air.

The regional agency has made quantifying Asia's contribution to local pollution a top priority in the last few years. In 2011, the district began funding Faloona's research, and this spring at Yosemite National Park, it is sponsoring a three-day transboundary ozone pollution conference for scientists and policymakers.

Last year, the agency submitted a first-of-its-kind petition to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency asking to be exempted from penalties for violating a health standard because of ozone pollution from Asia. On Aug. 10, 2012, pollution from Asia pushed smog levels in Fresno above a federal standard, the air district said.

The EPA imposed penalties on the region after it failed to meet a 2010 deadline to clean up ozone pollution. Valley air quality regulators have since collected more than $100 million in fines, mostly through an extra $12 a year in vehicle registration fees.

"Our residents shouldn't be penalized for pollution that comes from elsewhere," said Seyed Sadredin, executive director of the San Joaquin Valley air quality district.

Guam eyes nets to battle rhinoceros beetle

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)— Nets that have proven effective at catching invasive rhinoceros beetles are expected to arrive on Guam in March, a pest eradication expert said.

Roland Quitugua, the chief Inspector with the Rhino Beetle Eradication Program, told Guam mayors last week that the nets are cost-effective, *Pacific Daily News* reported.

The beetles first became widespread on Guam in 2007. The beetle damages and kills trees by burrowing into them.

Quitugua said the nets heading to Guam have holes that are large enough for beetles to get through, but not large enough for them to escape.

The nets can be placed on top of waste piles where the beetles tend to breed, according to Quitugua.

The program also is looking at using the nets on ornamental palms or coconut trees, to protect the trees themselves from damage.

"Preliminary data showing that it's working very well," Quitugua said.

According to Quitugua, ultraviolet light is another way to trap the beetles, which seem attracted to it.

For a fee, residents can obtain lures from the program that give off a scent. The lures are available from the program at its office at the University of Guam's School of Agricultural Sciences.

The beetles also can be managed using pesticides. But that's an option Quitugua said he'd rather not use because of the impact to the environment, although he noted it is a tool.

In Loving Memory of

†Rufina Celis Delos Santos Atalig

Also lovingly known as *"Auntie Fina* or *Ruth"*

(April 6, 1947 – February 20, 2015)

was called to her eternal rest on Friday, February 20th, 2015 at the age of 67.

In her new life she, now joins her loved ones:

Parents: †Luis Pangelinan Delos Santos (Lenchu)
†Rufina Celis Delos Santos
Son: †Raymond Santos Atalig
Nephew: † Wilfred Atalig Taisacan

Brothers, Sisters, & In-Laws:
†Maria Delos Santos Curb & Lee Curb,
†Maximina Celis Delos Santos

†Parents In-Law:
†Jose Camacho Atalig (Caban) & †Maria Blanco Barcinas Atalig

Brothers & Sisters In-Law:
†Augusto B. & Ana C. Atalig
†Antonia Barcinas Atalig-Diaz
†Lydia A. & †Leon I. Taisacan
†Manuel Barcinas Atalig
†Juanita Barcinas Atalig

She will forever live in the hearts of her:

Spouse: Fidel Barcinas Atalig

Children & Grandchildren:
Marian A. & Marcelo Kileleman (Keith)
Fidel Jr. S. & Isabel T. Atalig
(Jhaneeka, Delsarae, Maria, Ayanna, Devina)
Joseph S. & Louisa T. Atalig (Davian)
Dwayne S. & Kenye A. Atalig
(Crystal, Heaven, Diamonique, Angellyna, Dwayne Jr.)

Brothers, Sisters, & In-Laws:
Ana S. & Patrick Brockett (Florida)
Juana S. Crisostomo & Children (Florida)
Rosalia S. & Berno Borja & Children (Hawaii)
Antonio C. & Marilyn E. Santos & Children

Brothers In-Law & Sisters In-Law:
Jose Barcinas & Maria Atalig (San Diego, California) & Children
†Augusto B. & Ana C. Atalig (Debra A. & Perry B. Inos & Children)
†Lydia A. & †Leon I. Taisacan (Ronald, Dennis, Caroline, Lillian & Children)
†Antonia A. & Leonardo Flores Diaz & Children

Special Friend: Ida

She will be greatly missed by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews and friends.

Daily Mass is being offered at 6:00 pm followed by the Holy Rosary at 7:00pm at the San Vicente Church.
On Saturday, February 28th, 2015 the body of our dearly departed will leave Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Chapel at 7:30 am and will be escorted to San Vicente Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00am followed by interment services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

From her Spouse, Fidel Barcinas Atalig, Children, Grandchildren, & Family.

Life & Style

Will Smith enters a new phase, learns to 'quiet the warrior'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Things started to come into focus for Will Smith when "After Earth" bombed.

Once the biggest movie star in the world, his $130 million sci-fi spectacle "After Earth" opened in June 2013 to a lousy $27.5 million and would only go on to make up less than half of its production budget, domestically, by the end of its run. For a man who once defined himself by his box office star power, the blow was crushing.

"From the time I was in my early 20s, I had this goal that `I want to be the biggest movie star in the world,'" said Smith on a recent afternoon at a suburban Four Seasons Hotel, lowering his voice to a faux-macho level when he says the words "movie star."

"And I set out for conquer," he said. "Smash! Conquer!" he exclaimed animatedly.

For a while it worked. Smith has had four movies that have grossed over $200 million domestically, and 13 that have grossed over $100 million, most with him headlining. Then "After Earth" happened and everything toppled.

"After the failure of "After Earth," a thing got broken in my mind," he had explained to a group of reporters at a press conference for his new film "Focus" a few minutes earlier.

"I was like, `oh wow, I'm still alive. Oh wow. I actually still am me even though the movie didn't open at No. 1. Wait, I still can get hired on another movie?' All of those things collapsed in my mind. Mr. July! Big Willie weekend! No. 1! Eight in a row! All of that collapsed and I realized I still was a good person."

In this image released by Warner Bros. Pictures, Will Smith and Margot Robbie, right, appear in a scene from "Focus." AP

"It's a huge emotional shift for me," said Smith, who has since appeared in smaller roles in "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues" and "Winter's Tale."

"(Daughter) Willow in particular has helped me make a shift from winning and conquering to loving and connecting as a primary purpose for everything. She just absolutely demands attention to her thoughts and feelings. It's a huge lesson for me to quiet the warrior in me," he said.

It's fitting that Smith's first outing in this new stage is actually called "Focus" (in theaters Friday), a sleek, intimate film from "Crazy, Stupid, Love." directors Glenn Ficarra and John Requa about a smooth, seasoned con-man and his alluring and much younger protege, played by Australian actress Margot Robbie.

Smith and Robbie are meeting in the middle, in film and in life. Smith, in a self-defined new phase, and Robbie right as she's about to break out into the mainstream.

"The Wolf of Wall Street," where Robbie caught the attention of a wider audience playing the wife of Leonardo DiCaprio's character, hadn't even come out when she was cast in "Focus."

As she remembers it, "Focus" wrapped at 6 a.m. and she was attending the "Wolf" premiere that night.

"We couldn't be more opposite," said Smith of his co-star, seated next to her in the hotel.

"I wasn't expecting to get along with him as well as we did. We didn't have anything in common. He's an ex-rapper. I'm from Australia," added Robbie. "I, just like everyone, assumed he was really fun and funny. And he is really fun and funny. I wasn't expecting him to be so intellectual and emotional and deep."

Smith laughed.

"Ooooh. Intellectual, emotional and deep?" he said. "That should be your headline."

The two have a smoldering chemistry in the film and a playful, giggly way around each other off screen, often finishing each other's sentences when they're not making the other keel over in laughter.

They bonded over endless hours of conversation, chess, eating and going out with the cast and crew in the various shooting locations from New Orleans to Buenos Aires.

The elaborate Thanksgiving dinner that Smith coordinated while the cast was in Argentina didn't hurt either. Smith said the State Department even got involved to ensure they'd have cranberry sauce.

"He pretty much organized and funded the biggest Thanksgiving fiesta that Argentina has ever seen. That any of us have ever seen," said Robbie. "It's been over a year now but we're still talking about it."

Both credit the directors for making the set as fun and lively as possible, but Smith helps to set the tone.

"For me, it's really important to maintain a positive energy, especially when it's a comedy," said Smith.

"Will walks onto set with a boom box on his shoulder and starts rapping and it's like 5 o'clock in the morning and he's jumping up and down and throwing a rave and then you're just buzzing for the rest of the day," she said.

Robbie and Smith aren't done with each other yet, either. They'll both be appearing in the comic book film "Suicide Squad" for Warner Bros., which is currently in pre-production.

When Robbie heard that Smith was considering taking on the project, she texted him and insisted on it.

"He was like, `we'll see, candy cane,'" said Robbie. "He was my mentor on screen and off screen."

As far as what that advice is?

"My standard answer for Margot is `uh, don't do that,'" said Smith, laughing. "I'm like, you know what Margot? Take a nap."

Stolen statue, painting returned to Italian government in NY

NEW YORK (AP)—Decades after being stolen in Italy, an ancient statuette and an 18th-century painting were returned to the country's government Tuesday after turning up in New York.

The handover marked the latest case of U.S. authorities helping Italy and other countries reclaim what they see as cultural patrimony.

"For decades, two significant pieces of Italian heritage have been on the run," FBI Assistant Director Diego Rodriguez said as he and Manhattan Deputy U.S. Attorney Richard Zabel gave the artworks to Warrant Officer Angelo Ragusa of the Carabinieri Tutela Patrimonio Culturale, an art-crimes police force.

The painting, called "The Holy Trinity Appearing to Saint Clement," is attributed to the renowned artist Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, also called Giambattista Tiepolo. It was taken from a house in Turin in 1982, prosecutors said.

AP

An Etruscan bronze statuette depicting the Greek hero Herakles is displayed at a ceremony to return the statue as well as an 18th-century work attributed to painter Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, "The Holy Trinity appearing to Saint Clement," to the Italian government Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015, at the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

The Etruscan bronze statuette of the Greek mythological hero Herakles—also known as Heracles or, to the Romans, Hercules—dates to the sixth or fifth century B.C. It vanished from the Oliveriano Archaeological Museum in Pesaro in 1964.

The works eventually ended up with an art dealer and an art-investment firm, which consigned them for sale in recent years. They relinquished the items after learning of the thefts and aren't accused of involvement.

Italy has campaigned in the last decade to get back cultural items including ancient Roman, Greek and Etruscan artifacts the government says were looted or stolen.

New York prosecutors have been involved in the effort before. Federal prosecutors in Manhattan announced in 2011 that a Renaissance painting and a Roman sculpture from about the first century were being returned to Italy after popping up at New York auction houses.

And the Manhattan district attorney's office prosecuted a prominent coin collector who pleaded guilty in 2012 to trying to sell what he believed were ancient coins found in Italy after 1909, when it became illegal to remove antiquities from the country. Some of the coins proved to be forgeries, but five authentic coins from his collection were returned to the Greek government this summer.

Other countries also have taken action in recent years to reclaim antiquities, sometimes with help from U.S. authorities. In one example, fossilized remains of more than 18 dinosaurs were turned over to Mongolia's government last year after U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents discovered that mislabeled dinosaur bones were illegally being shipped into the U.S.

Bill Cosby's lawyers to ask judge to dismiss defamation lawsuit

BOSTON (AP)—Bill Cosby's lawyers said Tuesday they will ask a federal judge to throw out a defamation lawsuit filed by three women accusing him of decades-old sexual offenses.

The lawyers said in a legal brief they plan to file their motion to dismiss by Friday.

One of the women, Tamara Green, a California lawyer who says Cosby drugged and sexually assaulted her in the 1970s, originally brought the lawsuit in December 2014. Two women from Florida later joined the suit: Therese Serignese says Cosby drugged and raped her in 1976, and Linda Traitz alleges he tried to drug her and then sexually groped her in 1970.

The women argue that Cosby publicly branded them as liars through statements by his representatives. They seek an unspecified amount of money for compensatory and punitive damages.

Their lawyers have said the civil action also allows them to have their allegations heard since criminal statutes of limitation have expired. Cosby has denied wrongdoing and hasn't been charged with any crime.

The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in Springfield, in western Massachusetts. Cosby and his wife have a home about 45 miles north in Shelburne Falls.

Cosby, who starred as Dr. Cliff Huxtable on "The Cosby Show" from 1984 to 1992, has canceled or postponed more than a dozen shows on his comedy tour amid allegations by numerous women that he sexually abused them.

The Cosby team's statement that it will ask for the lawsuit's dismissal came in a status update filed jointly by Cosby's lawyers and lawyers for the three women. The sides have been in talks this month to resolve a number of issues related to the lawsuit, according to the filing.

Cosby's motion to dismiss will deal with "any issues that by that time have not been resolved through conference" between the sides, says the brief, which proposes other deadlines in the case.

Lawyers for the three accusers, for example, would have until March 20 to file a reply to Cosby's motion to dismiss. Cosby's lawyers would then have until April 8 to respond to that.

A lawyer for the three women said Cosby's motion to dismiss isn't a surprise. Lawyers for Cosby didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

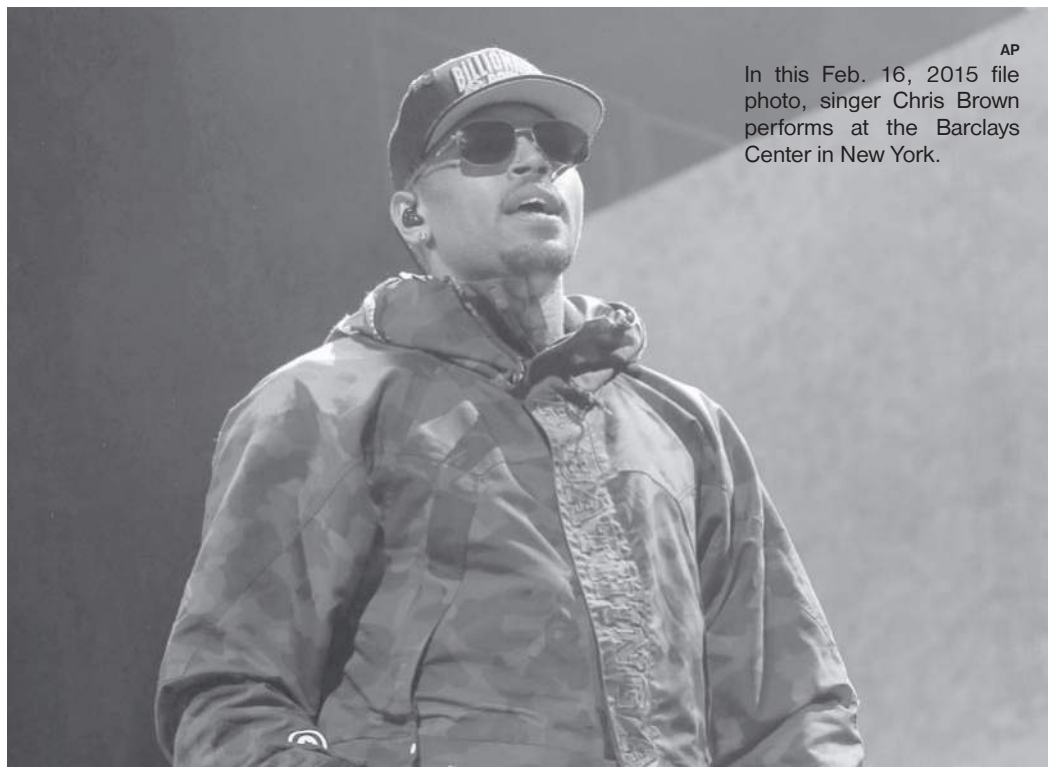
Chris Brown says he's been denied entry into Canada

TORONTO (AP)—Chris Brown tweeted Tuesday that he's been denied entry into Canada and that his concerts in Montreal and Toronto have been canceled.

The Grammy-winning R&B singer was scheduled to perform at the Bell Centre in Montreal on Tuesday and the Air Canada Centre in Toronto on Wednesday night.

Brown said in a tweet the "good people of the Canadian government wouldn't allow me entry. I'll be back this summer and will hopefully see all my Canadian fans!"

Brown was jailed for nearly three months last year for violating his probation by getting into an altercation outside a Washington hotel the previous year. He was on probation after he attacked pop singer Rihanna, his then-girlfriend, before the 2009 Grammy Awards.



AP
In this Feb. 16, 2015 file photo, singer Chris Brown performs at the Barclays Center in New York.

Nicole Perna, a spokeswoman for Brown, confirmed Canadian immigration officials denied him entry. Perna said Brown can apply to return at a later date and plans to do so. Live Nation, the promoter, said in a statement that "due to immigration issues" the shows have been canceled and refunds are available at the point of purchase.

In 2010, the United Kingdom denied Brown entry into the country, forcing him to miss four shows. The British government's Home Office said then that Brown had been refused a visa because of his past criminal record.

Stephane Malepart, a spokesman for Canada Border Services, said the country's privacy act prevents him from commenting on any individual case, but said several factors are used in determining admissibility, including involvement in criminal activity.

Convict in murder plot that inspired 'Blind Faith' book dies

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—A New Jersey insurance salesman convicted of plotting to kill his wife in a crime that inspired the best-selling book "Blind Faith" and a TV movie has died.

New Jersey's Department of Corrections said Robert O. Marshall died Saturday at South Woods State Prison in southern New Jersey. Citing privacy rules, the department didn't disclose a cause of death. Marshall was 75.

Marshall was convicted in 1986 of arranging the slaying of his wife, Maria. She was found shot to death in a picnic area along the Garden State Parkway as the couple returned from a night in Atlantic City. Prosecutors contended Marshall had his wife killed so he could collect a $1.5 million life insurance policy.

Marshall was to have appeared before the state parole board next month, according to parole board Chairman James Plousis. Marshall's two sons had testified at a victim impact hearing this month, Plousis said.

For nearly 20 years, Marshall was first in line for execution in New Jersey after the state reinstated the death penalty in 1982. But his death sentence was overturned in 2004 when a judge agreed with Marshall that his defense lawyer had erred by not calling any witnesses in the penalty phase of his trial. New Jersey abolished the death penalty three years later.

In a 2007 interview with The Associated Press, Marshall maintained his innocence and said he was framed. Referring to his move from death row to the prison's general population, Marshall said: "You always have that hanging over your head. You think your appeals are going to run out and you're going to take the long walk."

Scream real loud: New Pee-wee Herman film coming to Netflix

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pee-wee Herman's next adventure is coming to Netflix.

The online video company says it will debut a new film featuring Paul Reubens as the bow tie-clad character from stage, TV and film.

Netflix says the film will be called "Pee-wee's Big Holiday" and will feature Pee-wee taking his first-ever vacation after meeting a mysterious stranger.

Reubens first created the quirky character in the 1980s when he was a member of the Groundlings improv group.

Netflix currently streams the Pee-wee films "Pee-wee's Big Adventure" and "Big Top Pee-wee," as well as the TV show "The Pee-wee Herman Show" and "Pee-wee's Playhouse."

"Pee-wee's Big Holiday" is being produced by Judd Apatow and directed by John Lee. Reubens is writing the movie's script with Paul Rust.

Netflix says production will begin this year.

Jason Jones leaving 'Daily Show,' moving to sitcom for TBS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There's another departure in store for "The Daily Show."

Jason Jones will leave the Comedy Central series after nearly a decade to star in and produce a new TBS sitcom that was announced Tuesday.

Earlier this month, "Daily Show" host Jon Stewart said he will leave sometime this year.

Samantha Bee, Jones' wife and fellow "Daily Show" correspondent, will remain with the satirical news show, Comedy Central said in confirming Jones' exit.

But Bee will join her husband as an executive producer on the TBS sitcom about a family on the road.

On Twitter, Jones said it was time for him to exit "The Daily Show," which he called among TV's greatest programs.

Comedy Central said Jones will leave this year but didn't give a date for his last show.

Rancic apologizes for 'weed' jab at Zendaya's dreadlocks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Giuliana Rancic is apologizing to Zendaya and others offended by Rancic's "Fashion Police" jab at the actress-singer's Oscar-night dreadlocks.

On "E! News" Tuesday, Rancic said the reaction to her comments has increased her awareness of, in her words, "cliches and stereotypes."

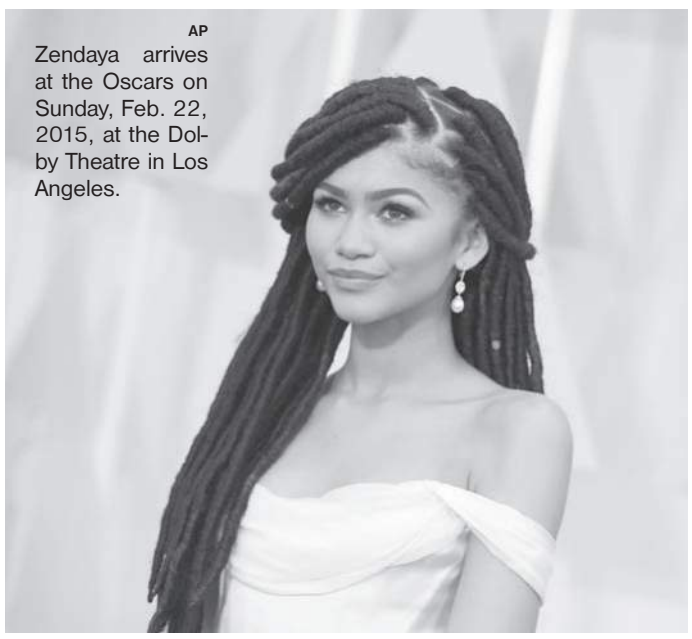
They are damaging, she said, adding that she and others have the responsibility to avoid perpetuating them.

During Monday's "Fashion Police" on the E! channel, Rancic said that Zendaya's hair suggested the smell of patchouli oil or marijuana.

Her "E! News" remarks went beyond an apology tweet in which Rancic said her references had nothing to do with race.

Zendaya's father is African American.

In a long Twitter post, the 18-year-old Zendaya called Rancic's "Fashion Police" comment about her dreadlocks "outrageously offensive."



AP
Zendaya arrives at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Face-to-face friend refuses to like online interaction

DEAR ABBY: Help! Facebook is killing my social life. I am wondering if anyone else is having this experience.

I am a woman whose job requires me to be on the computer eight hours a day. The last thing I want after work is to go online. Before Facebook took over my social circle, this wasn't a problem. But now all my friends and family are on the site and pressuring me to do likewise.

Gradually, Facebook contact seems to be replacing real, physical get-togethers. Things that used to be done in person or over the phone are now all done on Facebook, and we rarely get together anymore. If I don't check Facebook, I am out of the loop.

If I suggest getting together, everyone is "busy"—busy on Facebook, I guess. They aren't mad at me or avoiding me, they just want contact on their terms. Am I the only one having this problem?

OLD-SCHOOL IN CHAMPAIGN, ILL.

DEAR OLD-SCHOOL: I'm sure you're not the only one. The Internet is supposed to be a tool to facilitate communication, not a substitute for real, flesh-and-blood relationships. If you can't work out a compromise with your friends and family—say, one in-person visit a month—you may have to cultivate some new relationships with other "old-school" people who also prefer face-to-face contact.

DEAR ABBY: My father recently passed away. It was unexpected. He was my sunshine and my heart. I am devastated. Because of this, I am no longer sure I want to have a traditional wedding. It would be too sad to not share the day with Dad, as I had dreamed. My fiance and I have discussed eloping, and it seems like the right idea.

The trouble with eloping, however, is that we'd want our parents and siblings there as witnesses, and we'd like a party for friends and extended family after the nuptials. People are telling me THAT'S not eloping, and they have been looking forward to attending our wedding.

In the midst of my grief, I'm not sure how to respond to their comments. What should I do?

FATHERLESS BRIDE IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR FATHERLESS BRIDE: If you would prefer your nuptials to be a small, intimate affair, that's what they should be. Have a reception later. Whether others were looking forward to attending your wedding is beside the point. If you are challenged for not wanting a big wedding, all you need to say is that your plans changed when your father died. No one should be able to argue with that, because your feelings are understandable.

DEAR ABBY: I have a neighbor who is always asking to borrow things. The items come back only if I go and collect them —from food items like spices, to gasoline, cash and more. The situation is almost comical, like Simpson vs. Flanders. How can I make my stuff less available without outright saying no?

FLANDERS OF "SPRINGFIELD," MAINE

DEAR FLANDERS: And what is wrong with just saying no? When someone's generosity is abused, that's the most logical thing to do. And without being nasty, you should tell your neighbor the reason why.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

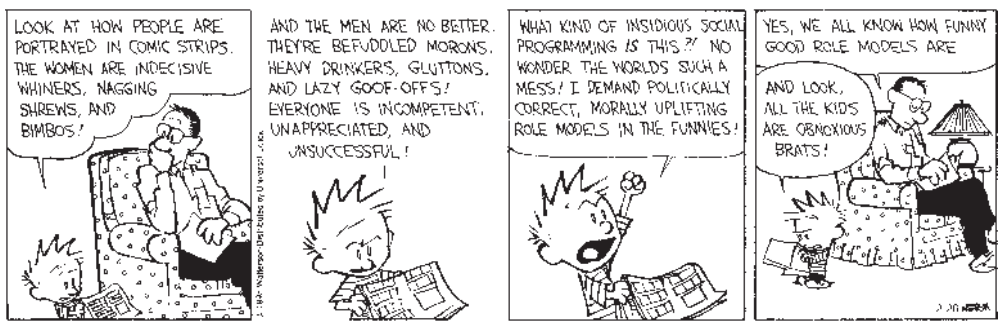
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

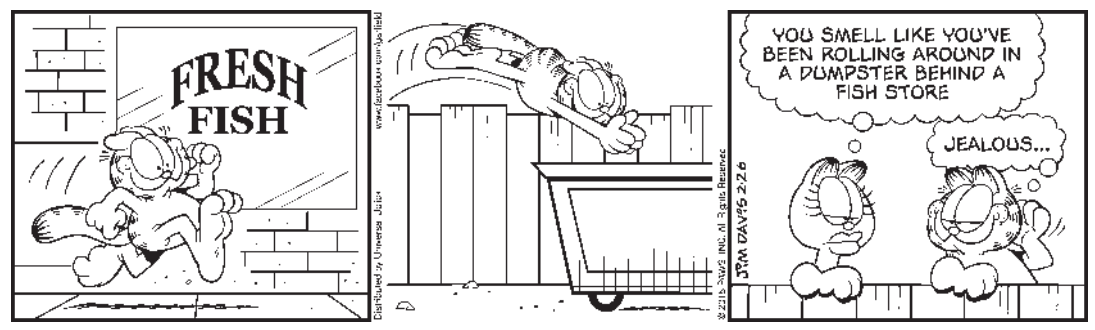
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LOOK AT HOW PEOPLE ARE PORTRAYED IN COMIC STRIPS. THE WOMEN ARE INDECISIVE WHINERS, NAGGING SHREWS, AND BIMBOS!
AND THE MEN ARE NO BETTER. THEY'RE BEFUDDLED MORONS. HEAVY DRINKERS, GLUTTONS, AND LAZY GOOF-OFFS! EVERYONE IS INCOMPETENT, UNAPPRECIATED, AND UNSUCCESSFUL!
WHAT KIND OF INSIDIOUS SOCIAL PROGRAMMING IS THIS?! NO WONDER THE WORLDS SUCH A MESS! I DEMAND POLITICALLY CORRECT, MORALLY UPLIFTING ROLE MODELS IN THE FUNNIES!
YES, WE ALL KNOW HOW FUNNY GOOD ROLE MODELS ARE
AND LOOK, ALL THE KIDS ARE OBNOXIOUS BRATS!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



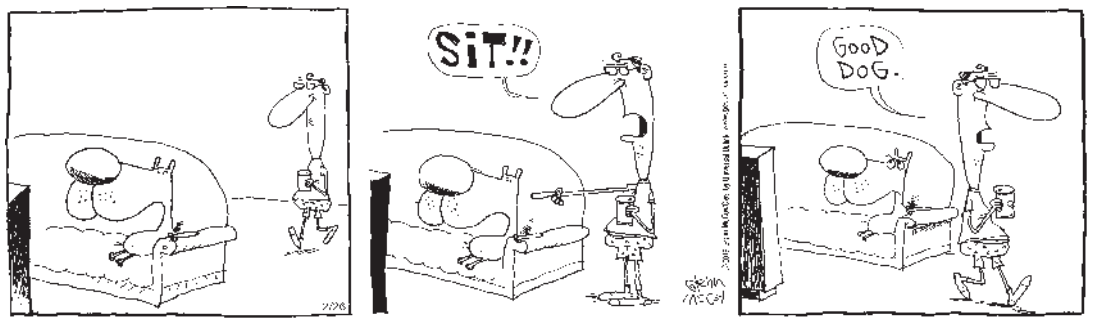
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WILL YOU ADMIT THE SKINNY LATTE IS PRETTY GOOD?
I GUESS I COULD GET USED TO IT.
AND THE NON-FAT YOGURT?
THAT'S A TOUGHER SELL.
IT'S LIKE ICE CREAM AND SOUR CREAM HAD A GROSS BABY.
BUT IT'S FULL OF LIVE CULTURES!
IF YOU THINK THAT HELPS, YOU NEED TO WORK ON YOUR PEOPLE SKILLS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Typeface choice
5 Quest
9 Witty one
12 Open a crack
13 Terrible guy?
14 Rd.
15 Plumbers' job?
17 X rating?
18 Stages a protest, of a sort
19 On the qui vive
21 "And I should care ... why?"
22 "Napoleon Dynamite" star Jon
24 Sore
27 Distant
28 As well
31 As well
32 Submachine gun
33 "— Town"
34 November responsibility
36 Fellows
37 Failure
38 Cardiff's country
40 "Goodness gracious!"
41 Extra
43 Tea variety
47 Table scrap
48 Johnson opponent
51 Anonymous John
52 Very enthusiastic
53 Telegram
54 Spring mo.
55 Colleen
56 Garbage barge

DOWN
1 Cry like a baby
2 California town
3 Tardy
4 Stylish
5 Billboard
6 Mendes or Longoria
7 Pack away
8 Massage
9 ABBA hit
10 State with certainty
11 Fellow
16 Carnival city
20 Grazing area
22 Mists
23 Ms. Brockovich
24 Off-roader (Abbr.)
25 Bill's partner
26 Trouble
27 Sulk angrily
29 Bottom line
30 Scepter ornament
35 Listening device
37 Local ordinances
39 Constitutional
40 Take blades to blades
41 Pop
42 Item on stage
43 Probability
44 Related to 35-Down
45 Pianist Peter
46 Got bigger
49 Eggs
50 Fleur-de- —

Solution time: 25 mins.

L	A	S	S	■	L	A	W	■	P	A	L	O
E	C	H	O	■	O	N	E	■	I	N	O	N
A	N	A	■	E	C	T	A	■	E	A	S	Y
F	F	D	O	R	A	■	V	O	R	T	F	X
■	■	■	N	I	I	■	F	A	C	H	■	■
A	M	A	■	E	E	L	■	K	E	E	N	S
S	O	N	S	■	S	E	A	■	S	M	U	T
K	O	A	■	A	■	U	L	T	■	A	N	Y
■	■	C	A	P	S	■	R	E	S	■	■	■
B	R	O	N	T	E	■	E	X	C	U	S	E
R	A	N	T	■	A	N	A	T	E	V	K	A
A	I	D	F	■	I	A	D	■	N	F	A	R
G	L	A	D	■	S	P	Y	■	T	A	T	S

Yesterday's answer 2-26

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12				■	13				■	14		
15				16					■	17		
18						■	■	19	20			
■	■	■	21		■	22	23				■	■
24	25	26		■	27			■	28		29	30
31			■	■	32			■	■	33		
34			35	■	36			■	37			
■	■	38		39			■	40		■	■	■
41	42				■	■	43			44	45	46
47			■	48	49	50						
51			■	52				■	53			
54			■	55				■	56			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sanya Richards-Ross, 30; Corinne Bailey Rae, 36; Mark Dacascos, 51; Michael Bolton, 62.

Happy Birthday: Make a commitment to finish what you start. The information and guidelines you discover through educational pursuits and discussions with accomplished individuals will increase your chance to become a driving force in your community or field of employment. A partnership will help stabilize your life and your future. Prepare to take action. Your numbers are 7, 16, 23, 25, 32, 34, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Make social plans. Put greater emphasis on love, romance and important relationships. Express your feelings, define where you stand, and identify what you want to see happen in the near future. Communication is key to success. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Limitations due to emotionally escalating situations will leave you reluctant to make a decision regarding your situation at home or at work. The suggestions made by an outsider will help ease your stress. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Listen to what's being said, but don't take action prematurely. Chill out and take time to reassess your life personally and professionally. Changes made at home will allow you to entertain new prospects. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll face both positive and negative situations. Focus on what you are able to change and where you can be productive and progressive. Don't rely on others for help. A creative solution will lead to success. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You have plenty to offer, so jump into action and do your part. Your contribution to any team you join will help you master your ability to be a leader. A serious talk will result in a successful relationship. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Revisit some of your past financial decisions. Buying and selling is highlighted, but the changes you make should be to lower debt and ease stress. Don't let anyone lead you astray or cost you emotionally or financially. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Discuss the changes you want to see happen within a partnership or your living arrangements. Back away from anyone who is demanding or pushy. You have much to gain if you offer your honest opinion. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put your cash and prized possessions in a safe place. Give yourself a chance to search for the best financial options. A risk may be tempting, but will not be worth the stress and instability that will ensue. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't let depression turn in to a costly affair. You are experiencing a make-it-or-break-it period where partnerships are concerned. Don't make a rash decision or say something you'll regret. Focus on the positives and protect your assets. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Keep a low profile and go about your business under the radar, and you will avoid being pushed in a direction that you feel uncertain about. Helping others or working on behalf of a cause will bring you the highest returns. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Pick up the pace and take an active part in anything that is work-related or goal-oriented. You can expand your interests and your friendships with influential people if you attend a networking function. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Keep busy and stay out of trouble. Too much time on your hands will lead to misunderstandings and emotional turmoil. Focus on self-improvement, not on trying to change others. Don't take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are goal-oriented, responsible and determined. You are a team player.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		1		5		7		
				9		6		
8			2				5	3
		2	7					
1	7						9	8
					3	5		
6	2				7			9
		7		4				
		9		1		4		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	7	4	1	6	9	8	2	5
5	1	8	3	2	4	7	9	6
2	9	6	5	8	7	3	4	1
4	6	2	9	3	5	1	7	8
1	5	7	2	4	8	9	6	3
9	8	3	7	1	6	2	5	4
7	4	9	8	5	1	6	3	2
8	3	5	6	9	2	4	1	7
6	2	1	4	7	3	5	8	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

AIRPORT LINES Solution: 9 letters

B	V	D	E	L	A	Y	E	D	A	R	G	P	U	O
S	N	I	L	Y	G	S	T	E	K	C	I	T	N	S
M	H	O	S	O	E	R	U	T	R	A	P	E	D	E
T	I	U	I	A	N	M	V	D	N	A	T	S	U	G
A	B	A	T	T	T	G	I	L	M	L	A	C	T	N
G	O	S	L	T	A	P	A	T	E	G	Y	R	Y	U
S	S	A	L	C	L	V	R	B	Y	A	Y	E	T	O
C	T	A	G	A	I	E	R	T	D	T	T	G	E	L
A	N	E	N	R	T	O	I	E	I	E	I	N	R	U
R	E	S	R	N	Y	T	N	R	S	S	A	E	M	G
R	M	A	U	E	N	G	U	C	R	E	W	S	I	G
Y	U	O	V	E	I	C	R	O	W	D	R	S	N	A
O	C	N	D	S	E	G	A	G	G	A	B	A	A	G
N	O	I	S	S	I	M	R	E	P	E	O	P	L	E
C	D	A	I	R	C	R	A	F	T	R	A	V	E	L

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Agent, Aircraft, Arrival, Assigned, Baggage, Busy, Calm, Carry On, Claim, Class, Conveyor Belt, Counter, Crew, Crowd, Delayed, Departure, Documents, Duty, Gates, Identity, Long, Lounges, Luggage, Passenger, People, Permission, Plans, Reservation, Seats, Security, Shuttle, Stand, Tags, Terminal, Tickets, Time, Travel, Upgrade, Visa, Wait

Yesterday's Answer: Whirl

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1**, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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(4) Waitress
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OTHER QUALIFICATIONS:

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- Full Time with flexible working hours.
- Salary: $6.05/hr
- Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently.

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JAPAN ENTERPRISES CORP.
DBA CLUB MICRONESIA
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(5) WAITRESS

2-3 years experience as a waitress in a Night Bar or an Entertainment Business.

Other Qualifications:

- At least 21-25 years old with pleasing personality.
- Full Time with flexible working hours.
- Salary: $6.05/hr
- Preferably someone who can speak Japanese language fluently.

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- Three years hemodialysis experienced-preffered.
- English Language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
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Curry leads the way with 32, Warriors down Wizards, 114-107

WASHINGTON (AP)—Considering the workout he gave it Tuesday night, Stephen Curry's right foot appears to be just fine.

Curry returned from a one-game absence to lead all scorers with 32, Klay Thompson added 17 more and the Golden State Warriors defeated the Washington Wizards, 114-107.

Curry missed Sunday's loss at Indiana with the sore foot and played nearly 34 minutes. He hit 11 of 18 field goal attempts—many with impressive degrees of difficulty—including five of nine from 3-point range.

"It's good to have Steph Curry back doing what he does," Thompson said. "Mesmerizing the crowd, mesmerizing us and keeping us in the first half."

Curry played all but four seconds of the first quarter, scoring 13 points, as the Warriors rallied from an early deficit.

"It's still not pain free, but it felt fine," he said of his foot.

"Once you start playing the adrenalin kicks in and you don't feel anything. It was good to just break a sweat in the first quarter, and feel active and not limited at all."

Marreese Speights added 16 points off the bench for the Warriors, who have won five of six.

The Wizards shot 53.2 percent (42 for 79), and outrebounded Golden State 45-29, but committed a season-high 26 turnovers to nine for the Warriors.

"I've never seen a turnover disparity like that where the game turned out to be close at the end," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said. "Little weird but we got it done."

Paul Pierce led the Wizards with 25 points, 18 in the second half. Marcin Gortat added 16 points and 11 rebounds, while John Wall chipped in 16 and 11 assists.

After dropping their fourth straight, and ninth in 11 games, the Wizards bemoaned the turnovers, but not their effort in taking Golden State to the final minutes after a pair of blowout losses.

"To give them that many more possessions, 11 more shots, makes it tough on you," coach Randy Wittman said. "Our effort was great. We play the way we play tonight, we take care of the ball better, we'll get back to winning games."

Washington's Rasual Butler's hit a 3-pointer to tie the score at 90 with 8:32 left, but the Warriors answered with a 6-0 spurt capped by Andre Iguodala's jumper.

Washington got to within three twice in the final minutes, including when a Nene basket made it 102-99, but Iguodala responded with a 3-pointer.

Pierce scored 14 of his points in the third quarter as the Wizards rallied to from six points down to briefly take the lead.

"I saw something different today than I did the last two games," he said. "Outside of our turnovers, we played with much more urgency."

AP

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) gestures after he hit a basket against the Washington Wizards during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015, in Washington.

Curry scored Golden State's final nine points in the third quarter, connecting for a pair of free throws, 3-pointer from the top of the key, jumper from the wing, and finally a baseline floater.

Cavaliers 102, Pistons 93

In Auburn Hills, Mich., Kevin Love tied a career-best with eight 3-pointers for 24 points and LeBron James added 19 points and 11 assists as the Cleveland Cavaliers rallied in the second half.

Love fell just one short of teammate J.R. Smith's record of nine 3-pointers against Detroit. Love missed both his two-point attempts.

James nearly had an odd triple-double, turning the ball over nine times, one short of his career high. Kyrie Irving added 18 points for Cleveland, which has won 17 of its last 19 games.

Reggie Jackson had 22 points, nine assists and eight rebounds in his second game with Detroit, while Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added 21.

Tayshaun Prince started at small forward in his first game as a Piston since he was traded to Memphis in January 2013.

Thunder 105, Pacers 92

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook had 20 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists, and the Thunder picked up their seventh straight win.

Westbrook claimed his third triple-double of the season and the 11th of his career, despite resting for the entire fourth quarter.

Serge Ibaka had 23 points and 10 rebounds and Enes Kanter added 15 points for the Thunder.

Oklahoma City won its third straight without Kevin Durant. The reigning MVP had a screw replaced on his surgically repaired right foot on Sunday, and he is to be re-evaluated within a week.

C.J. Miles scored 21 points, George Hill scored 13 and David West and Solomon Hill each added 11 for the Pacers, who had won three straight.

Mavericks 99, Raptors 92

In Dallas, Monta Ellis scored 20 points and Dirk Nowitzki had 18 as the Dallas Mavericks hit seven of their first 10 shots of the fourth quarter to defeat the Toronto Raptors.

The victory was Dallas' third straight, its longest winning streak since early January, and pulled the Mavericks within one game of first-place Houston in the Southwest Division.

DeMar DeRozan led the Raptors with 18 points. Toronto closed a stretch of four road games in five days with its third consecutive loss, one short of its season high. The Raptors are second in the Eastern Conference, their lead over No. 3 Chicago shrinking to one game.

Dallas' Rajon Rondo sat the final 20 minutes after having words with Mavericks head coach Rick Carlisle during a timeout.

Chicago's Rose out again with knee injury, needs surgery

CHICAGO (AP)—Derrick Rose's knee has failed him again.

The Chicago Bulls star will have surgery on his right knee for the second straight season, casting doubt on whether the once dynamic point guard will ever be the same after a series of injuries.

The team announced Tuesday night that Rose was feeling pain in his knee, and an exam and MRI confirmed a medial meniscus tear.

The 2011 NBA MVP played in only 10 games last season before he had surgery for the same injury in November 2013, shelving him for the year, but the Bulls said a timetable for his return will be determined after the operation.

It's unclear when Rose reinjured the knee. He appeared to be rounding into form last month, averaging 22.6 points over his final 14 games before the All-Star break, but he had struggled since returning to the court after the time off.

Rose became the latest NBA star to be sidelined for a significant period within the past few days.

Chris Bosh will miss the rest of the season after the Miami Heat announced blood clots were found on one of his lungs. Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony (left knee surgery) won't return this season, either.

AP

Chicago Bulls guard Derrick Rose (1) and Jimmy Butler (21) talk during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Milwaukee Bucks, Monday, Feb. 23, 2015, in Chicago.

Thunder star Kevin Durant had surgery on his right foot, and Pelicans big man Anthony Davis has a sprained right shoulder. Both are expected back this season.

Rose's status remains to be seen.

Rose had eight points on 1-for-13 shooting while playing almost 33 minutes in Monday night's 87-71 victory over Milwaukee. He averaged 10.7 points on 23.5 percent shooting in Chicago's first three games after the break.

It's a big blow for the surging Bulls (36-21), who have won six of seven and appeared to be picking up steam after a tough stretch. They lead the Central Division by a half-game over Cleveland, but any extended absence for Rose will make it quite difficult for Chicago to hold off LeBron James and the Cavaliers.

"Man feel bad for D.Rose! Keep your head up homie and stay strong G!" James tweeted after the injury was announced.

James was one of several NBA stars who took to social media to express their support for Rose, who has been dogged by injuries since he won the MVP award. All-Star teammate Jimmy Butler posted a picture of him and Rose with the message: "my point guard. my brother."

Rose was limited to 39 games during the 2011-12 season, and tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee in Game 1 of the 2012 playoffs against Philadelphia. He missed the next season altogether, and then last season was cut short by the right knee surgery.

Rose, 26, is averaging 18.4 points and 5.0 assists in 46 games this season. He has flashed his MVP form at times, attacking the rim, but his outside shot has been unreliable. He is shooting just 40.7 percent, the second-lowest average of his career, and is committing 3.2 turnovers per game.

The Bulls have shuffled players in and out of the lineup because of various ailments and have struggled to develop continuity after making some big moves last summer.

They signed All-Star Pau Gasol, giving them a big scoring presence inside, and with Rose back after missing most of the past two years, the Bulls came in looking to contend for a championship.

Now they wait to see how long Rose will be out with this injury.

LeBron James passes Pippen for most assists by forward

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Showing off his all-around game, LeBron James broke Scottie Pippen's NBA record for career assists by a forward when he found Kevin Love for an open 3-pointer against the Detroit Pistons on Tuesday night.

Pippen had held the top mark of 6,135 since taking it from John Havlicek in 2004.

James tied that with an alley-oop pass to Timofey Mozgov early in the second quarter.

Three minutes later, he added No. 6,136 with the pass to Love, who finished with eight 3-pointers for 24 points in the Cavaliers 102-93 win. James finished with 11 assists giving him 6,142 for his career.

Larry Bird and Kevin Garnett fill out the top 5.

James also holds the single-season record for assists by a forward with 651 in 2009-10. He broke Havlicek's record of 614.

Risky pursuit of Moncada underscores Red Sox commitment

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)—The Boston Red Sox are all in on Cuba, with their pursuit of acclaimed prospect Yoan Moncada the latest example.

Moncada's representative, David Hastings, said Tuesday he is hopeful the contract with a $31.5 million signing bonus will be finalized by the end of the week. The cost for the Red Sox will double because of the tax for exceeding the international signing bonus pool, a provision in baseball's collective bargaining agreement.

That means $63 million for a 19-year-old, but owner John Henry said he's not concerned about the risk.

"I think we're more discerning than ever, despite what people might write this week," Henry said Tuesday at JetBlue Park. "With high-ceiling players, you have to take risks, especially on young players."

General manager Ben Cherington decline to confirm the agreement with Moncada, a switch-hitting, multi-skilled middle infielder who was heavily courted by multiple teams. Moncada's physical is scheduled for Wednesday in Boston and Florida.

Henry was wary, too, of declaring the deal done. Speaking generally, was expressed confidence in the organization's ability to evaluate Moncada's talent.

"There have been a number of Cuban players who've come into the game that have really produced, and there've been some that haven't over the years. But I think we've done our homework, and we expect a lot," Henry said.

Moncada has played primarily second base, but he's considered athletic enough to be moved to shortstop or the outfield, too, as he develops. With speed, an ability to hit for power and contact plus a good glove and a strong arm, Moncada will carry the five-tool label with him into the majors.

"There's been a lot of interest in him and a lot of teams have spent a lot of time on it and it's been a competitive process," Cherington said.

Including from the New York Yankees, who offered $25 million and told Hastings they would consider it if he countered at $27 million.

"We went where we were comfortable going," general manager Brian Cashman said. "It was an uncomfortable number to put forth, but it still fell short."

In 2002, the Yankees outbid the Red Sox for Cuban pitcher Jose Contreras, prompting president Larry Lucchino to famously call the Yankees the "evil empire." But under the direction of Cherington, senior vice president of player personnel Allard Baird and director of international scouting Eddie Romero, the Red Sox have tried to stay at the forefront of the Cuban influx.

They were outbid by the Chicago White Sox for first baseman Jose Abreu, but they traded last year for outfielder Yeonis Cespedes, whom they later dealt to the Detroit Tigers. Then they signed outfielder Rusney Castillo to a $72.5 million, seven-year contract.

"There are $150 million contracts that end up being good values, and there's $500,000 contracts that end up being bad values, and everything in between," Cherington said. "So the exercise is to identify the player, identify what you think he's worth and then see if you can acquire him for that."

Moncada's bonus will be the most for an international player under 23 who is subject to the signing pool, topping the $8.27 million pitcher Yoan Lopez agreed to in his deal with Arizona last month.

Boston already was over its signing pool for the period running through June 15. Because of that, for the signing periods starting on July 2 this summer and in 2016, the Red Sox will be ineligible to give a signing bonus of more than $300,000 to any international players subject to the pool.

Hastings said the threat of the 100 percent tax impacted negotiations.

"That was mentioned by every team as a hindrance to the contract part," he said.

Baseball's rules call for Boston to pay the tax by July 30 and for Moncada to receive the entire signing bonus amount by the end of 2018. The tax is to be used "to further the international development of baseball," according to the labor contract.

The restraints on signings began in the 2012-13 period.

"We thought we put a set of deterrents in the international signing pool that would be effective. So far I would say that they have not been quite as effective as we hoped for," Commissioner Rob Manfred said. "But remember, the piece that hasn't kicked in is the inability to sign in the following years. So we'll have to see how that piece of the deterrent plays out before we make a full judgment."

The hefty price tag on Moncada's deal increased the chatter about an international draft, which Major League Baseball would like to institute in the labor contract that starts with the 2017 season. Tampa Bay Rays pitcher Drew Smyly said on Twitter he didn't believe it was "right" that a Cuban 19-year-old can get this kind of money when an American the same age would get far less in a signing bonus after he's drafted.

Smyly clarified in a subsequent tweet that he wasn't criticizing Moncada or the size of his deal.

"I'm all for any player making as much as he can. I only meant every amateur should have same opportunities and guidelines to play MLB regardless where they are from," Smyly said.

AP

In this Nov. 12, 2014 photo, Cuban baseball player Yoan Moncada prepares for an exhibition game for major league scouts, in the Enrique Torrebiarte Stadium in Guatemala City.

SIDEBAR

A-Rod hugs and works out with Headley

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Alex Rodriguez started his second day of workouts at the New York Yankees' minor league complex by hugging Chase Headley, the player signed to replace him at third base.

"He's an excellent addition to our team," Rodriguez said Tuesday. "He had some questions, stuff about hitting, baseball dialogue. That's my wheel house. It was great."

Suspended for violations of baseball's drug agreement and labor contract, Rodriguez missed all of last season and is trying to return as his 40th birthday approaches in July. Yankees manager Joe Girardi and general manager Brian Cashman say Headley will be their starting third baseman and Rodriguez will compete for at-bats at designated hitter.

"If I thought that I was coming here as a first baseman or a left fielder or whatever, that wouldn't have made sense for me," Headley said.

Rodriguez has apologized to the Yankees and to fans, but didn't go into specifics on his actions that led to the suspension. Six years ago, he admitted using performance-enhancing drugs while with Texas.

When asked whether he will be mentally OK without using PEDs, Rodriguez responded: "I think I'll be fine, but only time will tell."

Rodriguez walked onto the main field, where around a dozen other position players were stretching along the right-field line, two days before full-squad workouts start at the major league complex, a little more than one mile away. A-Rod headed to Headley for the warm greeting.

"We just started the process of getting to know each other better," Headley said. "It was great to meet him and talk baseball a little bit. As a player, you experience different things through your career. There's been different sets of circumstances that I've dealt with and this was just another one. Every interaction I've had with him has been positive."

AP

New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez, rear left, greets third baseman Chase Headley as he arrives for a spring training baseball workout at the Yankees minor league facility, Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015, in Tampa, Fla.

Rodriguez noted the absence of Derek Jeter, who retired last fall after 20 major league seasons and five World Series titles. Jeter appeared to distance himself from Rodriguez after A-Rod was quoted in a 2001 Esquire article saying "Jeter's been blessed with great talent around him" and "he's never had to lead."

"No one can replace the captain," Rodriguez said Tuesday. "I know I'm going to miss him tremendously."

Rodriguez and Headley played catch, took grounders together at third and hit in the same group. Rodriguez took 35 swings, hitting three homers and two drives that landed high on the batter's eye in center field.

The three-time AL MVP, who turns 40 in July, has not played a full season since 2007 because the suspension, operations on both hips and other injuries.

"The most important thing is to be patient," he said. "It's going to take at least three to four weeks to start getting a good read."

Girardi thinks Rodriguez will be ready to play next week, when the exhibition schedule starts. Asked whether his feelings toward Rodriguez have changed, Girardi said "I don't know."

"My personal feelings are my personal feelings," he said. "I don't think that's something you discuss. I'm going to do whatever it takes to get the most out of him."

Back-to-back monthly titles for Angeles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Raymond Angeles made it two in a row as he ruled the February roll-offs of Saipan Bowling Association's 2015 Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes tournament held over the weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Angeles, who defeated Ador Dimaano and Robert Talavera in last month's competition, took the February title after showing up in the final day of the tournament last Sunday and collecting 805 pinfalls. He knocked down 200-plus pins in three games (206, 234, and 219) and added 146 in Game 3 for an average of 201.25 and 44-pinfall win over Day 1 leader and eventual runner-up Raul Dumapit.

Dumapit joined the Saturday roll-off and finished strong with his 194 and 223 in Games 3 and 4 to lead Dimaano, 761-742. Dumapit's scores in the first two games were 173 and 171, while Dimaano tallied 210, 190, 180, and 162. Dimaano went on to slide to fourth place as he came back for the second day of the tournament, but mustered only 755 pinfalls (235, 175, 177, and 168), five pinfalls short of surpassing Talavera's 759 (182, 165, 203, and 209). Bowlers are allowed to compete in both days of the monthly tournament, but only the higher score is counted.

Completing the Top 10 were Ramir De Leon (741), Lito Teodoro (716), Percy Omechelang (705), Ariel Dumapit (697), Jaw Yong Kim (673), and reigning King of the Lanes Simon Manacop (666).

Other participants in the February roll-offs were Raphael Zapanta (661), Yong Woon Lee (659), Ronald Batac (650), Randy Abreu (643), Jorge Soledad (639), Lito Teodoro (639), Tony Verdaguer (631), Bernard Paraiso (611), Roger Vales (609), Tito Corpuz (588), and Tony Yarobwemal (504).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Diana Camacho, left, and Raymond Angeles, show the prizes they won for ruling the SBA Budweiser February roll-offs held over the weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Diana takes Queen tiara

In the Queen of the Lanes, Diana Camacho defeated her daughter Carrie for the February title, 714-656.

Both mother and daughter played in last Sunday's competition with Diana gaining some cushion after two games as she tallied 190 and 201 pinfalls before closing out with 159 and 164 for an average of 178.50.

Carrie registered 159, 166, 177, and 154 in four games to average 164 and beat Kathy Mersai for the runner-up honors. Mersai logged 653 (163, 134, 184, and 172) last Sunday to round up the Top 3. Gloria Omechelang and Elena Soll recorded 628 and 617 pinfalls, respectively, to complete the Top 5.

Gigi Zapanta, the Day 1 leader after posting 606 pinfalls (175, 148, 148, and 135) last Saturday, dropped to a tie for sixth place with Linda Yarobwemal, who matched the former's output last Sunday.

Yho Villavicencio (597), Lala Taitano (561), Marie Candado (543), Anna Kim (538), and January winner Diane Chong (526) were the other participants in the weekend competition.

'Let's start the ball rolling'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The CNMI should begin forming the organizing committees for Saipan's hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games, according to Gov. Eloy Inos' acting press secretary Ivan Blanco.

Northern Marianas Sports Association officials are hoping to arrange a meeting with Inos to discuss plans on how the government could help in Saipan's hosting of the quadrennial event.

NMSA president Michael A. White, in the group's monthly meetings last January, had earlier said that although 2021 is still six years away they should start planning for the Mini Games.

Blanco, in an interview by the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, said the pre-planning stages should start as soon as possible.

"For now, what NMSA must do is right a letter to the governor to request for a meeting. Nothing yet is set and governor Inos is more than willing to accommodate them," Blanco said.

"We should start forming the organizing committee. Identify the areas that need immediate attention. The years go by so fast, one moment you'll be surprised that it is already 2021," added Blanco.

He said some of Saipan's sports facilities need improvement and renovation so it would be ready for the competition. "We need to look at the venues that would be used and start improving and renovating them."

Funding would be one of the major concerns in Saipan's hosting of the Mini Games.

"We need to identify funding for hosting the Games. The Legislature is willing to do their share and I know the private sector and other businesses are always there to help," Blanco said.

"Governor Inos is looking forward to meeting NMSA and discussing the Mini Games. They need to set a meeting and schedule it right now. We should start planning for this," he added.

Blanco said aside from planning the event, CNMI athletes should also begin and train harder in order to compete against the best from the Oceania region.

"We want our athletes to be in top shape and in great competition form. They are the ones who will bring pride to the CNMI by winning medals. We have been behind for quite some time against other island nations," said Blanco.

The Pacific Games Council awarded the hosting rights to the CNMI during last year's general assembly meeting in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

The Oleai Sports Complex, which is now under the sole management of NMSA and houses baseball and softball fields, the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, and the track and field facility, would be the main hub of the Games.

The Marianas High School Gymnasium, TSL Sports Complex, and the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool are the other venues considered to host various competitions.

Athletics, badminton, golf, tennis, canoe racing, volleyball (indoor and beach), baseball, sailing, swimming, triathlon, weightlifting, and wrestling are the 12 sports to be played in the 2021 Mini Games.

NMI ready to host U21 baseball tourney

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan Baseball League president Rose Igitol said the CNMI is ready and more than willing to host the 2015 Baseball Confederation of Oceania Under-21 tournament.

"We have not hosted an international baseball tournament for quite some time. And we want to submit a bid to BCO for hosting the event," Igitol, who was elected as one of the three BCO executive members, told *Saipan Tribune*.

SBL coordinator and Northern Marianas Sports Association executive director Tony Rogolifoi said, in an earlier interview, that he wants to bring the U21 tournament at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palaciso ballfield.

The BCO executive board is set to issue a letter of invitation to bid for the U21 tournament to all of its member federations.

"We want to bid. We will bid for the hosting rights. We are more than ready to do it. SBL coordinator Tony Rogolifoi is very excited for it," added Igitol.

Igitol said that Guam would be supporting the CNMI's bid to bring the U21 tournament to Saipan. "We have a good chance of getting the hosting rights. Guam would not bid if the CNMI would submit a bid."

If ever Saipan is given the hosting rights, countries like American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Guam, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Solomon Islands are expected to compete.

"We are more than willing to host them so they could get a chance to see Saipan and get to know our local culture," said Rogolifoi, who helped guide Team CNMI to gold medals in the 2006 Micronesian Games and the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

Igitol added getting to host the U21 tournament, tentatively set in late December or early January in 2016, would prepare Saipan for next year's inaugural Micronesian Baseball Classic.

"If we do get the hosting rights. It would be a good preparation for next year's MBC. It would be a stepping stone in organizing another major baseball tournament in 2016," Igitol said.

The MBC, planned to be a biennial event where the hosting rights would rotate among members of the Micronesian region, is a brainchild of Rogolifoi, who brought up the idea in a meeting during the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpeii last July.

Fiji's Innoke Niubalavu and Palau's Temmy Shmull join Igitol as BCO executive members where they will have a three-year term along with Guam's Bob Steffy (president), New Caledonia's Laurent Cassier (first vice president) American Samoa's Victor Langkilde (second vice president), and Australia's Chet Gray (secretary general).

NMIFA

From Page 28

NMIFA technical director Kiyoshi Sekiguchi for facilitating the deal.

Sekiguchi started working out the pact with Soccer Junky through his former club, the J-League's Yokohama FC, which has also reached an agreement with Aoki's company.

"Having a uniform is very important for any team in any sport. It symbolizes solidarity and unity as the team seeks one common goal," Sekiguchi said.

When asked what made Soccer Junky decide to ink a pact with NMIFA, Aoki said they are encouraged by the relentless efforts of NMIFA officials in pushing for the development of the sport in the CNMI.

"Coach Seki and Mr. Jerry Tan are very passionate in their attempt to put CNMI football to another level. They are doing all their best to help the players, coaches, and officials, so we are here to assist CNMI football, too, in our own little way," Aoki said through interpreter Takemoto Suzuki of Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong.

Aoki added he and NMIFA officials share the same passion in soccer, as he once played for a professional team in Peru.

Meanwhile, besides supplying the uniforms for the Commonwealth's national teams, Tokyo-based Soccer Junky will also try to have its products available at different stores on the island. In Japan, Soccer Junky items are available in over 100 stores and they can also be bought online via soccerjunky.com.

BRAVES

From Page 28

on an error by shortstop Keene Deleon Guerrero and stole second base. He moved to third on a passed ball and scored on another Padres throwing error.

Franklin Lieto walked and moved to scoring position on consecutive errors, but was tagged out running toward home plate to end the inning.

Kaipat and Saralu both went 2-for-3 with the former driving in three runs, including that two-RBI double in the third while the latter made two runs and had one RBI.

Jones lasted four innings, allowing the Padres two earned runs on two hits with four strikeouts and two walks. He gave up a single to K.J. Deleon Guerrero and a triple to Keene Deleon Guerrero in the third.

Frankie Lieto pitched two shutout innings in relief surrendering two hits, both singles to Keene Deleon Guerrero and Kent Kalen, fanning two and walking one.

J.J. Lifoifoi closed out for the Braves, forcing Halstead to ground out on a 6-3 putout play, while retiring Cody Blas. K.J. Deleon Guerrero had an infield fly that was caught by first baseman Palacios to end the game.

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slowed down in the second half, but Daniel had nothing to worry as Hernaez stepped in to keep their safe distance, while Caleb never made headway in the final frame to drop its opener.

Michael Cabanas led Caleb's losing cause, tallying 14 points.

In the second game, Donnel Isip was on target in Joshua's debut, firing a game-high 23 points to power his team to the 6-point win. Two other Joshua players hit double figures with Allan Chavez and Jess Calub chipping in 15 and 10, respectively.

Isip had an explosive first-half, knocking in 17 points to give Joshua a 4-point cushion at the turn, 28-24. Joshua retained the lead as Isip this time drew help from Calub and Chavez and matched every basket Mike Surima, Brendon Perez, and Vhoie Francia scored.

First Game

Daniel 65 – Hernaez 16, Del Carmen 9, Pablo 9, Del Rio 8, Paulino 6, Nunez 6, Ong 4, Valderama 4.

Caleb 52 – Cabanas 14, Ocanada 11, Morales 6, Castro 5, Sacdalan 2, Gatdula 2.

Scoring by halves: 31-21, 65-52.

Second Game

Joshua 60 – Isip 23, Chavez 15, Calub 10, Gonzales 7, Dequito 5, Abe 2.

Ezekiel 54 – Perez 16, Surima 13, Francia 11, Conti 8, Irog 4, Alcantara 2.

Scoring by halves: 28-24, 60-54.

NMIFA, Soccer Junky Sign Agreement

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan signs an agreement naming Soccer Junky as the official uniform supplier of the CNMI national teams during a brief ceremony yesterday at the NMIFA office at the TSL Plaza.

Soccer Junky president Hayato Aoki, left, and NMIFA president Jerry Tan shake hands after signing the agreement.

Soccer Junky president Hayato Aoki affixes his signature to the agreement that named his company as the official supplier of CNMI national teams' uniforms.

NMIFA president Jerry Tan, fourth left, reads the message on the plaque of appreciation NMIFA is presenting to Soccer Junky president Hayato Aoki, third left, while the association's Executive Committee members and NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta, right, witness the presentation.

Soccer Junky president Hayato Aoki, left, and NMIFA president Jerry Tan pose for the camera after signing the agreement.

Soccer Junky president Hayato Aoki, left, and NMIFA president Jerry Tan show a sample of a soccer jersey Soccer Junky makes.

From left, NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta, NMIFA technical director and CNMI coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi, and NMIFA president Jerry Tan welcome Soccer Junky president Hayato Aoki.

NMIFA president Jerry Tan, right, hands over to NMIFA technical director and CNMI coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi, left, the designs of the uniforms, while Soccer Junky president Hayato Aoki looks on.

NMIFA president Jerry Tan, right, briefs NMIFA's Executive Committee members on the details of the agreement between the association and Soccer Junky.

Curry leads the way with 32, Warriors down Wizards, 114-107

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Risky pursuit of Moncada underscores Red Sox commitment

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NMIFA president Jerry Tan, fifth left, presents a plaque of appreciation to Soccer Junky president Hayato Aoki, fourth left, during an agreement signing ceremony between NMIFA and the Japan-based company yesterday at the NMIFA office at the TSL Plaza. Joining them are NMIFA's Executive Committee members and general secretary Ross Zapanta, right.

NMIFA inks deal with Soccer Junky

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association has reached an agreement with Soccer Junky, naming the Japan-based company the official supplier of CNMI teams' uniforms.

Soccer Junky president Hayato Aoki and NMIFA president Jerry Tan signed the pact in a brief ceremony yesterday at the NMIFA office. The association's Executive Committee members Glenn Perez, Joseph Kevin Villagomez, Vickie Izuka, and Elna Curate, and NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta witnessed the signing of the agreement.

Under the one-year deal, which will be effective starting on April 1 this year and until March 31, 2016, Soccer Junky will supply uniform sets for the CNMI's boys U15 and U18, senior women's, and girls U14 national teams. Each set includes home and away jerseys, practice uniforms, warm-up suit, and walking shirt. NMIFA estimates the cost of the uniform sponsorship at over $40,000.

"We can't thank enough Soccer Junky for this generous donation. We very much appreciate the company's assistance and the efforts of Mr. Aoki to come all the way from Japan to sign an agreement with us. This deal is very timely, as we will have four national teams competing in off-island tournaments this year," said Tan, who also made special mention of

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Braves beat Padres in Big League

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The NSA Braves used a five-run third inning and a steady bullpen in completing a 9-3 win over the Padres in the Big League division of the Saipan Little League last Thursday night at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Darrion Jones had a lead off double, while J.J. Lifoifoi singled and both of them reached home plate on a throwing error by Padres pitcher Bret Halstead to break a 3-3 count and push the Braves up, 5-3.

Ray Saralu, with no outs, singled and moved to second when Ian Norita was hit by a pitch from Bret Halstead. Angel Palacios then grounded out to second baseman Kent Kalen, who made the relay throw to first baseman Brad Lieto for the first out.

Rhobby Kaipat, who went 2-for-3, doubled to bring in Saralu and Norita to hike the Braves' lead to 7-3. He moved to third on a throwing error but was tagged out while attempting to cross home plate.

Franklin Lizama got on base

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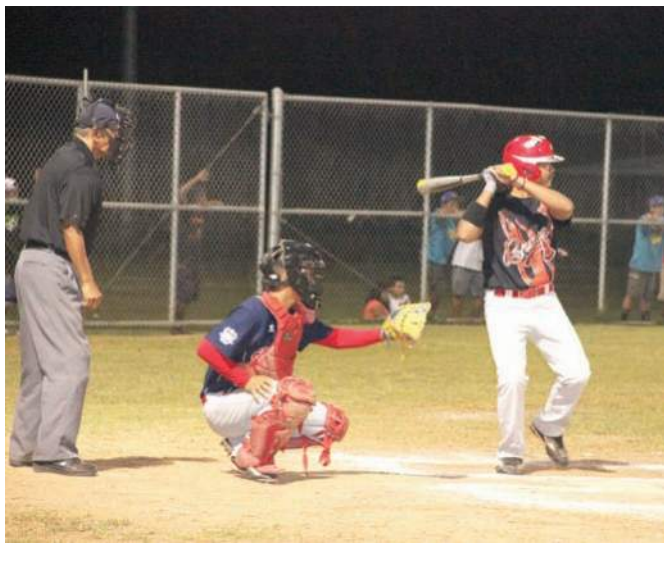

JON PEREZ
An NSA Braves batter waits for a pitch during their Big League game against the Padres last Tuesday night at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Contrasting wins for Daniel, Joshua

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Daniel started its title defense bid in the 4th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League with a win, while Joshua also prevailed in its debut last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Daniel, which won the last edition of the Genesis Cup after beating Isaiah in the finals, was pitted against Caleb in the curtain-raiser and coasted to a 65-52 victory. In the second game, Joshua downed Ezekiel, 60-54, to join opening day victors Isaiah and Gideon in the winners circle.

Jo Hernaez top-scored for Daniel with his 16 points, 14 of them came in the second half, as his team protected its double-digit spread en route to the 13-point winning margin.

Daniel established a 31-21 halftime edge with Mark Del Carmen, Dindo Pablo, and Reli Del Rio joining forces in the first half and combining for 20 of their total points. The trio

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Joshua's Allan Chavez, left, and Donnel Isip, right, hound Ezekiel's Brendon Perez during the first half of their game in the 4th Genesis Cup last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.